The Most Pleasant

HISTORY

OF

Ornatus and Artesia:

SHEWING

The Tyrannical and Wicked Reign of *Thuon*,

King of Phrigia,

WWho having murthered his Lawful Soveraign, Usurped the Kingdom, and grievously oppreſt the People, was afterwards slain by one of his own Servants.

With the manner of his Son *Lenous* falling in Love with the fair *Artesia*; his several strange and unheard of Plots, contrived to attain his desires, and the miseries she endured thereby, till by the Prudence, Valour, and Fortitude of *Ornatus*, she was set at liberty.

Also, how by the assistance of the King of *Armenia*, and the policy of *Philastes*, *Ornatus* recovered the Kingdom, (to which he was right Heir) and afterwards he and *Artesia*, being Royally married together, Crowned King and Queen of *PHRIGIA*.

The Eighth Impression; Exactly corrected and amended.

London, Printed by *M. White*, for *J. Wright*, *J. Clark*, *W. Thackery*, and *Tho. Passenger*. 1683.

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Orratus and Artelia:

SHEWING

The Tyrannical and Wicked Reign of Theon,

King of Phrigia,

Who having murthered his Lawful Soveraign, Usurped the Kingdom, and grievously oppressed the People, was afterwards slain by one of his own Servants.

With the manner of his Son Leonus falling in Love with the fair Artelia, his several Voyage and untread of Ploits, contrived to intrap his Queen, and the miseries the endured thereby, cured by the Prudence, Valour, and Fortitude of Queen, the wife at last of Victory.

Also, how by the assistance of the King of Armenia, and the policy of Philetes, Orsames recovered the Kingdom (to which he was right Heir) and afterwards he and Artelia, being Royally married together, Crowned King and Queen of PHRIGIA.

The Eighth Impression: Exactly corrected and amended.

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His Noble and Ingenious Friend

Mr. Edmund Buckworth,

Of the County of

NORFOLK,

GENTLEMAN.

SIR,

I Have now (in my self a continual care of seeking opportunities to doe you service and more delight in reading my self yours than in the wayes of the World) I beseech you therefore (since the Author of this wellpenn'd History is deceased) to honour me with the acceptation of this Dedication: It presenteth it self in a home-bred Dress, in well applyed words, and not in tedious borrowed Phrases, wherein the well affected shall not find any cause of offence, the vertuous any terms to discontent them, nor the vitious any examples to suit with their evil dispositions. Here you may see Usurpation tyrannize, Avarice guilty of Murther, and Lust leaving no unlawful means unattempted to satisfie his Lascivious appetite, yet all these subdued by vertue. Sir, I have taken upon me the boldness to present it to you, to

shew that I am not altogether unmindful to gratifie those many civil courtesies I have received of you, and I desire you to accept of it as the sum of that which my ability (in this my clouded condition) can afford. The subject being but a fancy of the witty Authors, I know is not unlikable to your grave disposition, for the Sage *Greeks* took much pleasure in reading the works of *Ovid*, and that Worthy of the World, *Alexander* the Great, took such delight in *Homers Iliads*, that in his Youth he slept with them under his Pillow. Since then, many Learned and Honourable persons have delighted in Histories of this nature look not upon the value of the Gift, but the real affection of the Giver, who is cordially devoted to you, and will be ready to shew his reality in any trial you shall make thereof. I must acknowledge my self an enemy to Courtship, and think it a sin unpardonable to doubt your Nobleness in the acceptation; therefore amidst my misfortunes, I am proud of the honour to make your goodness known to the World. Sir, the reception of this, shall make me conserve the memory of all your other Favours, which have so extreamly obliged me, that I must needs remain

YOURS

always to serve you,

Robert Wood.

THE

THE Pleasant History OF ORNATUS AND ARTESIA.

CHAP. I.

How Ornatus became enamoured of the fair Artesia.

THere lived in the renowned City of Athens two ancient Gentlemen, the one named Allinus the other Arbatus, men of great Nobilitous, and much honoured: between whom such extream contention and hatred remained, by reason of the death of one Nereus, brother to Allinus, long since happening Quarrel by certain Jewels which belonging to Arbatus, that neither their own kindred, nor their friends perswasions could mitigate the same; both of them being enriched with innumerable Blessings, especially in their fair Progeny.

Allinus had a Son of a goodly stature and commendable gifts, named Ornatus; and Arbatus a Daughter called Artesia, whose beauty was admired by all that see her, yet by reason of

discord,

discord that was between the Parents, they had no knowledge of each other.

Ornatus above all things delighted in Hawking, and on a day wandred without company with his Hawk on his fist into a pleasant valley, where he sat down under the shade of the green Trees, with purpose to rest himself, and as he was inclining to slumber, he was suddenly rouzed by the noise of a kennel of Hounds that past by him in chase of a Stag, after whom Artestus and divers in his company followed, and being past by, he espied a beautiful Damzel entring the said Valley, who being weary alighted there, which Ornatus seeing withdrew himself, whilst she laid her delicate body on the cooling Earth to refresh her self and dry up her sweat; which she sooner to accomplish unlaced her Garments, and with a decent and comely behaviour discovered her Silk white Neck and Breast, beautified with two round precious Meats, to receive the breath of the cool Wind, which was affected with a delight to exhale the moistened vapours from her pure body.

Ornatus seeing all, and unseen himself, noted with a delight each proper lineament of her proper body, beauty, sweet favour, and other comelinels, which filled his heart with exceeding pleasure, growing into an unrestrained affection toward her, studying what he should be: Then suddenly his Hawk feeling his fist moveable, thinking to prune, and with quaint prune her self, and being taken with the noise of his Bells made Acteis start, who as one half amazed with a fearful behaviour rose from the ground, and looking round about her, to perceive from whence the sound came, she espied Ornatus, who unwilling she should know that he had seen her, lay as if he had been fast asleep: Acteis musing what he should be, and accordingly thinking he was alone, undid up her naked Breast with great haste, and unbosoming her self, purposed to go away unespied; which Ornatus perceiving, and desiring without speaking to her to lose her sight, seemed to awake, and raising himself, hastily espied her, which infused such a Vermilion blush into her beautiful cheeks, and such a confusion was spread all over her, that she stood like one half amazed; which Ornatus perceiving drew towards her, and greeted her with these courteous sayings.

Fair

Fair Damzel, be not dismayed with my presence, though a stranger who shall no way, if I can chuse, offend you, but rather command me, and I will be ready to do you any service. Yet Artesia notwithstanding his speeches, withdrew her self aside, leading her Horse to a Bank whence with ease she mounted, and so rode away, not giving him any answer at all.

He greatly marvelled thereat, yet rightly imputed her unkind departure to her fear, not discourtesie; and finding himself deprived of her sight, and the night approaching, he repaired home to his Fathers house.

After Supper, betaking himself to his Chamber (with intent to rest) he was possessed with such remembrances of the beautiful Damzel he had seen, that his fancy soon transformed into reasonable cogitations of her beauty, and the pleasant sight he had seen in the discovery of some of her hidden Features, imprinted such a delight in his admiration-smacks, that he could take no rest, but rioted out all that night in those Meditations. The next morning, thinking to shake off all further remembrance of her, he got him into the company of his most chosen friends, whereon however he took most delight, yet now by reason of his different passion, he seemed to be weary of them. He had not continued long with them, but he was saluted by a Gentleman, named Philetes, with whom he was familiarly acquainted. This Gentleman belonged to an ancient Duke named Turnus, who at that time solemnized the honour of his birth day, from which Allius excused himself, because he thought he should meet Artesia there; but lest the Duke should justly be offended with him, he granted that his Son Ornatus should go to beholm himself.

Which Philetes acquainted Ornatus withal, who glad thereof, repaired thither in company of divers other Gentlemen: The Duke likewise had sent another Messenger to request Artesia's company, who being of a more mild Nature than Allius, willingly went, and with him his Lady and fair Daughter Artesia.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

How Dyana came to the knowledge of Artesia, and procured Avelyna to make known his love to her grand: as the rebuke Artesia gave her.

After the Feast was ended, and the Duke had performed all his Duety with all manner of courtesie, he and the principallest (among whom Arbastus was one) according to the custome used in that Countrey, fearing there should to whom certain Games and Exercises to be performed by the young Gentlemen, which consisting in Leaping, and diverse other Exercises for trial of the dexterity and nimblenesse of the body: Among the rest Dyana (having never before made trial of himself) had such good fortune, and behaved himself with such agility and strength, that he won the chiefest Honour, and was presented before the Duke to receive a rich Reward.

Which when he had received, casting his Eyes upon the Beholders, he espied Artesia, whom he perfectly knew again, ready to depart with her Parents, who had taken their leave of the Duke farewel.

Dyana coming to Pallatee, asked if he knew that Damsel, shewing him Artesia, who told him what she was.

Dyana was glad of that small knowledge, which could add little means to his hopes, yet remained somewhat discontented that he was Neighbour to Arbastus. And thus the two Lovers parted, and were carried to their several habitations.

Dyana coming again into his Chamber, spent his time of rest in sundry Cogitations of his Love, and how he might have knowledge of his affection, noting every danger, and considering how discontentedly his Parents would take the same, if it should by any means come to their knowledge. He apprehended many fears in his discretion, as that he was offensive in seeking to attaining to the least hope of grace from Artesia: But finding his affection to encrease more and more, and burning with a greater desire, which nothing but onely her favour could extinguish, he past away many melancholy hours, labouring by all means possible to arrive at the accomplishment of his desires.

After

After that night was paſt early the next morning he wandred towards the place where he had beheld her with ſuch exceeding content; and by the way as he went, he met with a Gentleman named Adelfen, of mean birth and ſmall living, yet of good Education, who formerly retired to Arbellas houſe, and was great with him at that time, into whoſe company he inſinuated himſelf, and ſaid,

Sir, quoth he, I am bold to intreat a word or two with you. Sir, replyed he, with a good will, I will ſatisfie you in what I can. Speak you ſir, good ſir, quoth he. I do, ſaid he, both know him, and am very much acquainted with him, even whole houſe I am now going, for ſpeak ſir, quoth he, if I dare, for I ſerve Artheſia, upon whom I doubt not but you know of whom I truly ſpeak more, but that I am unwilling to be ſo inquiſitive as to diſcover his ſecrets to one I know not, yet if you promiſe to be ſecret, and afford your help to further him (which you may both lawfully perform) you ſhall do him an exceeding pleaſure, and withal be ſo highly rewarded, and well gratified, that you ſhall think your labour very well employed, and bind him to perpetual bands of love and friendſhip.

Sir replyed Adelfen, I know not the Gentleman, yet I have heard him very much commended, whom if I could any way pleaſure, I vowe on both allegeance and ſecrecie, promiſing your upon my Faith and Credit, if you will make me acquainted with your mind, I will either be my good will to further him, or elſe conceal what you have already ſpoken.

Then (quoth he) my maſter not long ſince walking in yonder Valley, beheld the fair Artelia, Daughter to Arbellas, in whoſe beauty he is ſo exceedingly enthralled, that unleſs he find ſome means of comfort to eaſe his torments, I fear me it will endanger his life, wherein you may pleaſure him by making his love known to her, in ſuch ſort as may beſt agree with your wiſdome. This is all, and yet to much, that the revealing thereof may be much harm; And to effect ſuch a contract might procure great envy between their parents, therefore I intreat your aid and furtherance herein; with which good news if I return to him, I know it will breed no little comfort to his ſickned heart.

Sir, ſaid ſhe, Since I perceive his Love is grounded upon Vertue (not drawn thereto by any deſire of reward) I undertake to be his aſſiſtant herein, and will, to the utmoſt of my endeavour, labour

to procure his consent, which this day I will in some part begin to put in execution, and if you return unto me to morrow, you shall know her answer. I will, said he, and so they parted.

Ornatus having left her, entred into many cogitations of this rash attempt, accounting himself over credulous to commit his secrets to her power, of whose fidelity he had never made tryal; sometimes comforting himself with hope of good event, and again despairing of comfort, for that he supposed Artesia would rather esteem him as an enemy than a friend, by reason of their parents hatred, and therefore would the more hardly be drawn to give any credit to his suit: revolving a Chaos of these and such like confused Cogitations, he returned to his Fathers house, thinking the time tedious until his appointed meeting Adellena, who after her departure from him soon arrived at Arbalus house, & putting her self as she had done formerly, per taesul jour to execute the charge she had (which he could by no direction utter till after Dinner) she found Artesia alone in the Garden, and having insinuated her self into her company, which Artesia kindly accepted: She entred into variety of Discourses, and continued sometimes in giving certain Herbs their proper names: Amongst the rest Artesia espied a Herb with parti-coloured Leaves, and demanded Adellena if she knew the name of it? which she told her she did not. I have oftentimes, quoth Artesia, seen this Herb, and it hath two pretty names: It is by some called Love in Idleness, and by others, Heart-ease: whereupon Adellena fetcht a deep, though counterfeit sigh, which Artesia noting, said; What makes you sigh, to hear it named Heart-ease? Marry replyed she out of question, because those two names so ill agree; another, to by the same I call to mind the hearts grief I heard a young man complain of, procured by love, which was not in idleness, but I think in good earnest. Why quoth Artesia, can love procure such Hearts-grief to any, and not rather content? Yes, said she, because the party in love hath no hope to attain the good liking of the party he loveth. Then (quoth Artesia) I accompt him a Fool that will love so deeply without hope of Reward, and that to be rather fondness than true friendship, where Affections are placed with such inequalities: But I pray tell me what is he, into whose secrets you were so suddenly admitted? Not admitted (replyed she) for unawares I heard his complaints, which afterwards I.

I promised not to make any acquainted withal, but the party whom he so entirely loveth. Then (quoth Artesia) I may not know, neither do I care, for it is but a vanity that troubles ones mind.

Yes (quoth he) you may, and shall if you please, know who it is, upon condition you will neither be offended with me for telling you, nor reveal what I impart. Why (replyed Artesia) am I the party, or doth it any way concern me, that I should be offended? if I be, then keep your counsel answered, for it will prove unsavoury to my Stomach, for be it far from me to be troubled with the vain suits of doting Lovers. Yet let me answer (quoth Adellena) you bear too [illegible] cert at Love, to be the Mistris party, [illegible] united in hearts. Without the which neither [illegible] attain heaven, nor other Creatures have [illegible] love not to be abhorred: and for that any should love your self, can that be any offence to you, but rather be accepted in kind sort? Male should by nature love them that love us, then will you, contrary to nature, yield hatred for love? For you indeed are the party that is beloved, and the party that is so far in love with you every way to be commended, whose name I will forbear to reveal, and then I hope I shall give no offence to your chast Ears.

Do so (quoth Artesia) for concealing the same you will please me, and if you will be welcome to my company, use no more of these speeches. Had I thought, quoth she, they would have been offensive, I would not have uttered them, but in so doing, I did but fulfil your request: Then at my request again, quoth she, give over. After this communication ended, they parted; Adellena home to her house, and Artesia to her Chamber, where at first some thoughts of these speeches pollest her fancy, but afterwards she spent the rest of the night in quiet sleep.

CHAP. III.

How Adellena conveyed Ornatus Letter into Artesia's Casket, and with what impudence she took the same.

Early at the approach of the next morning, Ornatus (who with a greedy expectation waited for it) arose, and soon got to Adellena's house, where he arrived before she was up, who having knowledge thereof, soon came down to him, taking him to be no other than Ornatus his man, to whom he declared the very truth of all her speeches had with Artesia; which nipt him to the heart: But retaining some hope by her perswasions, he gave her a Purse full of Gold, in recompence of her last pains; and to entice her to undertake more, he said:

Good Adellena be not dismayed to prosecute my suit for Artesia's first frown, for I am not Ornatus man, but my self Ornatus himself, that languisheth with desire to attain her love, which I would my self prosecute, if the discord between our Parents did not hinder the same; wherefore I beseech you once again do something in my behalf, for you see how cruel destiny hath shut me from all means to be put in practice by my self, and you may pleasure me without any hazard at all, for which I will rest so thankful unto you, as that you shall account your pains taken, well bestowed.

Sir, replyed she, I would undertake any thing to further you, if I knew which way, but I perceive Artesia's frowardness is such, that nothing I shall bring her will be welcome; but if you will advise me what I shall do, I will once again hazard the ills of her good liking for your sake; which said, Ornatus wrote a Letter, which he desired by some means to convey to her sight, the contents whereof were these.

To the Fairest ARTESIA.

Fairest of Creatures,

BE not offended with my boldness, but rather favourably censure of my good meaning; for being bound to Honour none but your most Vertuous self, I thought it my Duty to give you knowledge thereof, desiring you

you to pity the extremity of my passions, procured by the Attainder of your conquering Perfections: I confesh you may alledge many things as Reasons to dissuade you from giving credit to my Speeches, or yielding me the least Favour in your conceits: Yet (I beseech you) make but trial of my Loyalty, Love, and Duty, so far as shall agree with your Honour, and you shall find the constant fix'd the one, and perseverant in the other; one that hath submitted himself to your command, vowed his Devotions to pursue your favour, & everlastingly bound himself to be ever your humble chase expressing Humble meaning, thus willing to be obliging, and desirous of Favour, I beseech you to be favourable to me, though bearing the name of an Enemy, in whom you shall find the true heart of a constant Friend; whose safety, comfort, and preservation, resteth in your Power. The first view of your Beauty (which was in the Valley when you were last Hunting) surprized my Heart with such humble regard to your Vertues, that ever since I have endured the bitter torments of fearful despair, which urged me to this presumption; desiring from your Sacred Lips to receive my sentence of Comfort or Affliction, rather than to spend my life in Languishing by an unrevealed Torment. Then be you gracious to him, that is otherwise most miserable, and shew Favour to an undeserving unknown Friend; So shall you not only shew that you are merciful, but also save a miserable Lover from utter Ruine.

Your Humble Friend,
ORNATUS.

Adellena having received this Letter, told him she would deliver the same, which the next day she performed in this sort: Being come to Arbelius house, she continued most part of the day in Artesia's company, but once returning the least remembrance of the talk she had with her the day before, but slipping her open her Casket, wherein she put her Book, whilest Artesia was busie, she secretly conveyed the Letter unseen into the same, which by and by Artesia locked, for none but her self had the Key thereof.

Adellena thought the time tedious till she had taken her leave, fearing lest Artesia should upon some occasion open the Casket again, and to find the Letter, which she must there: therefore she long found means to steal away from the time of rest was come, and Artesia alone in her Chamber, she took a Book, according to her usual manner, to read a while, but finding nearly tak alleep, and to her Key was power with a Charm, wherein her thoughts called to remembrance Adellena's speeches, which moved such a [illegible] of her, that thinking she had [illegible] Letter's

spirits she awakes, and feeling a distemperature in all her parts, and seing the light still burning, she, marvelled at her boldness, that had before forgot to put the same out, and by this means called to remembrance Adellena's speeches, mar-velling what he should be that was so in love with her, and suddenly again reasoning her self to giving her mind thereby to think of love, she would have banished all further remembrance out of her mind; but the more she laboured, the more unable she was to prevail in overmastering her fancies, that being both vext with her self and Adellena, she uttered these speeches.

What disquiet is this possesseth my heart, and procureth such unwonted Cogitations to rise in my Fancies, and disturbs my rest? I was not used to trouble my self with these Vanities, which the more I labour to suppress, the more they encrease: Could Adellena's speech have such force (which I had well nigh forgotten) as thus long to stick in my remembrance? Or what reason have I to regard them that were not worth the hearing, but rather intended to demonstrate the affection of some Fond Lover, that seeks to entrap my chastity? May her Lips be hereafter closed for uttering them, and would I had been deaf at that time, and not heard her Enchanting sound.

This said, she catcht up her Book, thinking by reading to drive away all remembrance thereof, but her heart was so fully possest what he should be, that she neither could read, or when she had read, remember what it was: and finding this means not to avail, she started from her bed, opening the Casket to take out her Sampler, wherein she took most delight, and suddenly espied the Letter, and reading the Superscription, was half astonished thereat, especially to think how it should come there, what the Contents might be, often being minded to tear the same in pieces, and not read it, which her heart would not suffer her to do before she had seen what was the Contents; yet striving to overmaster her Affections, she tare the same in the midst, which done, such a remorse rose in her fancy, united with a desire to know further thereof, that leaping into the bed she closed the same together, and betwixt a waking and sleeping mind read the same one or one: whereupon reciting a deep sigh, she said: Ah my poor Will, how are my affections betrayed to my Enemy? Alas! Oriana she meant? Can it

be

be that he will prove my friend, that is my professed enemy? Oh no, he intendeth nothing less than love, but under rather colour thereof seeks my ruine. Was it he that I beheld in the Wallepe. Oh is it possible he should be so deeply in love with me, upon that small slighte? No, I will not credit his speeches, but still repute him as an Enemy, as indeed he is, and henceforth abandon Adellena's company, for whose unkind [illegible] confounded hither: then tearing the leaves into a thousand pieces she designed to rest as she could from all thoughts of [illegible] the least content of love, and sought to encourage her resolves and suspect of his falshood, spending the rest of that night in cruel fullen contrariation of doubtful thoughts. Early in the morning she got up, and within short time met with Adellena, who was ready with a desire to know what answer he had given, and finding occasion fit, when none was by, she uttered these speeches.

Adellena, I marvel what folly rules in your mind, that you whom I thought had been so vertuously given, should seek my ruine; wherein have I shewed my self so discourteous, that you should thus requite me in this unworthy manner? Does remember the speeches that past betwixt us the other day in the Garden, when I finding out your mens by your speeches, desired you to give over, and not to use any more talk to that effect, which you faithfully promised; but now most unfaithfully have broken, and more impudently have betray'd my quiet with your disquiet, and ill sounding news? If your rudeness were such, that you would not desist, you might then have delivered Ornatus false and feigned Enchantments into my hands, and not so secretly have conveyed the same into my Casket, wherein you have made me amends for all my love, in seeking to betray my life into the hands of mine enemy; for otherwise I neither can, nor will esteem him; therefore henceforward come no more in my company, for I forbear your familiarity, hate your counsels, and will cause my Father to banish you from the house, and alienate his friendship from you for ever.

Adellena would have answered; but Artesia refusing to hear her, departed, and left her so much grieved, that immediately she went home to her own house.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

How Dynatus despairing, leaveth Father's House; and disguising himself was entertained by Arbastus.

Dynatus desirous to hear how Artesia had accepted his Letter came to Adellena's house, where he found her weeping exceedingly, who being very earnest to know the cause thereof, she told him, which caused such sorrow to possess his mind, that without yielding her Dynatus any answer, or other speeches he departed. Being so much overcome with inward sorrow, that finding a solitary place, he laid him down upon the Earth, uttering these Lamentations.

O miserable Caitiff, what hast thou to do but grieve, when thy ill Fortune yields nothing but cause of Lamentation? why should thy life last to endure these Torments, and not rather to dissolve into unseen Essences? Could any thing have happed to me more miserable than to behold Artesia, and now to endure her cruelty? or more fortunate if she had been merciful? But the Destinies have drawn me to like her that hates me, and become a Captive to a cruel and unrelenting Enemy. Well, my Love is sweeter than my life, and therefore I will hazard all to purchase her liking.

Having said this, he a while late silent, when suspecting to further his encounters, he beheld certain of his familiars go by, with whom he departed home.

Early the next morning, being exceedingly troubled in mind, and impatient of delays, he left his fathers house to visit Adellena again, whom he had the day before left so unkindly, whom he found ready to go to Arbastus house; and saluting her, said; Adellena, be not offended at my unmannerly departure, for my heart was so much disquieted at the ill success my suit took, that I could not use that behaviour toward you that your parts deserved; but now I am returned to ask your counsel what is further to be done herein.

Sir,

Sir, replied she, I know not what further means to use with you, I have used any more attempts to try Artesia's courtesie, who is already so much offended with me, that I fear I shall lose her friendship for ever, if I should utter that again which is so unwelcome to her.

Ornatus hearing her speeches, thought she was unwilling to prosecute his suit any further, and with a heavy heart left her, entring into many cogitations which way to compose himself, often times utterly despairing. But at the last, he resolved to leave no means unattempted, nor danger unessayed, though with hazard of his life, to procure some ease to his oppressed and grieved spirit.

Then he began to think with himself, what should make Artesia so hard to give no credit to his speeches. It is not for want of lenity, piety, or wisdom, for she is young, and therefore subject to love, beautiful, and therefore to be won, wise, and therefore will with consideration pay my sorrows; wherefore I will by what means I possibly can alienate her good liking from me, more than any other, my name, for by that she reputes me an enemy, that is Ornatus, she would peradventure respect me, and give some regard to my suit; therefore I will seem to be what I am not; that she not knowing me, may (if not love me) yet desist to hate me. Then he began to study what means to use to enjoy her sight, without which, he could not live, and yet not be known what he was. Amongst many devices this took most effect. That in his stay after having provided all things necessary, he attired himself like a Virgin of a strange Country, which he might well be esteemed to be by his youth, and taking with him his Lute, wherein he could play exceeding well, in the silent of the night he departed towards the Sea-coast, which was near unto Athens house, and seating himself upon the Rocky Shore, began to play upon his Lute. Early the next morning, Adraphero happened to pass by that way, and hearing his tunes musick, amazed to look about and espied him, and thereupon stayed to see what he was.

Ornatus turning himself about, espied the old man standing gazing upon him, whereupon he drew towards him, and saw as follows:

Good Father, Muse not to see me in this unfrequented place, being by shipwrack cast on this shore, and preserved from a grievous death by Sea, to perish for want of comfort on the Land in a strange place, where I neither have friends nor acquaintance, therefore I beseech you yield comfort to my distress, and succour to my want.

Fair Damzel, quoth the Shepherd if my homely Cottage can afford you any comfort, to please you to accept thereof, it shall be at your commaud, whither if you please to go, without any more circumstance of speeches, you shall be most heartily welcome. I thank you, quoth Dorastus, and I accept your gentle proffer, so they departed together: and when they were entred, and the Shepherds in the best manner he could, had welcomed him; and he had eat of such food as was set before him, he told them his name was Silvia relating some circumstances sufficient to countenance the manner of their shipwrack, shewing reasons why he undertook that voyage by Sea, which the old folks believed: He likewise framed himself to such a kind of excellent behaviour, that it was almost impossible for any to discern, but that he was a very woman indeed.

Silvia (for under that name he shall pass a while) stayed there some two days, but yet without any hope how to enjoy Fawnia's company. And the third day it fortuned, Arbastus being a hunting, a storm chanced to arise and taking for shelter, he lighted on the Shepherds Cottage, where he presently entred without speaking one word, and espying Silvia was half astonished to behold a Damzel in that stead, and silently entred in that homely place; and when he had viewed her well, seeing her alone, with a mild and courteous behaviour, he said;

Fair Damzel, pardon my boldness, if I have disquieted you, for I little thought to have found such a person in this place. Silvia knowing him, he knew not, but gave him no answer; immediately whereupon the old Shepherd came in, using great reverence to Arbastus, who demanded of him what Damzel that was? whereupon the old man declared all that he knew. Arbastus then said;

Lady, I understand by this Shepherd some part of your misfortunes, which I so much pity, that I will do any thing I can

to procure your content: And because this place is not agreeable to your Birth, which may be greater than I can imagine, let me intreat you to accept of such entertainment as my habitation affords, whither you shall be welcome. Silvia, being glad of that proffer, yet fearing to be discovered by her willingness to yield, made this answer;

Sir, this homely place is best agreeing to my poor Estate, being by Misfortune brought to misery, which I am also unworthy of, for that I know not how to make mine Host amends, desiring [illegible] in this place void of care, than in places of more Dignity [illegible] I shall be too chargable to this poor man, and you de[illegible] I shall be so bold as to take your proffer, though unw[illegible] gratefull as I would.

Many other speeches past between them, till at [illegible] parted towards the Castle, where Silvia was kindly Entertained, now having his hearts desire, which was to enjoy the sight of Artesia.

Ornatus being alone by himself began to meditate on the good success he had on this occasion, and how fortunately all things had fallen out to further him in his love; Wonder not Reader that the Eyes of all men had beheld him, should be so deluded as not to perceive what he was.

In these and such like Speculations he spent some three or four days, taking such great content in beholding Artesia's Perfections, that he was now more deeply enthralled than he was before, by hearing of her Beauty, seeing her behaviour, and now hearing her Speech, commending her courtesie, admiring her beauty, imputing each Lineament of her divine form in his affection, with such unmoveable resolves of constant loyalty, that he did not only love her, but also honour her as an Idol, enjoying her company at all times by her Fathers dominions. Artesia likewise took no little pleasure in Silvia's company, in whom so many vertuous old adorned that all that saw her commended her

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

How Adellena brought tidings to Arbastus House of Ornatus hidden departure: How he naming himself Silvia a long time enjoyed her company; and what success befell him in his loves.

By this time Adellena had heard of Ornatus's departure from his Fathers House, and of the exceeding Grief and Care his Parents took, fearing lest he might by some Treachery be murthered; whereupon she soon brought tidings to Arbastus House, and published the same; which came to Arbastus's hearing, who was grieved exceedingly to hear the same, for that he esteemed very well of Ornatus. And now comes into the Garden where Artesia was walking with Silvia Adellena could not withhold her self from speaking, but uttered her mind thus: Artesia be not offended with what I say, I am rather displeased with your self, who are the Original of this wo: Ornatus whom you supposed your Enemy, though indeed your most faithful Friend taking your unkind refusal most heavily and accounting himself not worthy to live, if you despise him, rather hath brought his own unravelled Death, as despairing to find favour at your Parents hands, by reason of his Country, Parents, and Acquaintance, to attain to your: What will be said of you, when the cause of his sorrow shall be known? How may your own Conscience torment your self, of hard hearted pride, that would not yield pity to the distress of so worthy and courteous a Gentleman, who for his gentle sute was spitefully disdained, and for his loving good will requited with cruel hate? Be you sure you shall one day be repaid with the like despight whom you shall most affect: I know his love was firm, constant and unmoveable, which maketh me so much the more pity his estate: I know his meaning was both honourable and virtuous, and his birth you knew: What vertues abounded in him, all can witness, and how heartily he loved you, the Heavens know. Poor Ornatus farewel, hard was thy hap to place thy true love so firmly, where thou reapest so little reward.

Artesia

ed Artesia hearing her speeches, could not tell whether she might be blame her, or excuse her self, sometimes doubting, whether she spoke this of policy to try her, or of truth, being as ready to blame her, as to accuse her self, sometimes doubting either; for she thought if she spake true, she had good cause to say what she did, and her self more to be blamed than any: for notwithstanding she had given Adelbera a flat denial, yet her conscience knew some spice of love was kindled in her breast, insomuch her heart being oppress with these cogitations, it caused the tears to stand in her Eyes. Ornatus seeing all this, took no little comfort thereat, especially when he perceived Artesia's heart relent; but by reason of this dissimulation, being known for no other than a Woman, he kept silence, whereas fain he would have spoken, but feared lest he should discover himself. Adelbera seeing she had disquieted Artesia, being her self full of grief, and unwilling to urge any further, departed, and Artesia withdrawing her self from Silvia's company into an Arbour, uttered these speeches.

Can it be that Orlando's love was so great, that for my sake he hath done this? Could he love her so constantly, that was his vowed enemy? Is love of such a force as to draw one into these extreams? Then may I compare it to the Herb Artesia found in Persia, which being but held in the hand, causeth a heat through all the body; so love entertained but in thought disquieteth all the Senses. But why do I conceive in vain of Orlando, when I do not know the truth of Adelberas report? It may be he hath hired her to do this, whereby I may be deceived, yielding to pity when there is no cause; like the Bird Archanus, ready to come at every call. Admit it were so, I am not bound to favour him, for he is my enemy, and Son to my Fathers chief foe: What reason then have I either to give credit to his love, or her protestation, when both may be feigned? Well, I will be resolved before I yield my self to loves inchanting baits, and before I love, I will know whom I love; If but Artesia thy dance yields temptation already, and thy Conscience bids thee pity him because he loveth thee; for love in a reputed Enemy may be as constant and loyal as in an open friend, and an Enemy becoming a friend will be the more constant. Then what hast thou to do, but to make further trial of his constancy, and finding him true, yield

Rewards

Reward to his Desert? Soft, go not too far, grandame, be Constant, Loyal, and love thee so entirely, yet now thou hast made him to forsake his Country, and peradventure hast procured his untimely death, there is nothing else to be done but to play the part of a true and faithful Alcestes. All this while Ornatus shrouded himself from the sight of the Queen Maades, and heard her (perhaps to his exceeding comfort) again falsely wrong him. But she having ended her speeches, arose and came to the supposed Silvia, to whom she said: My mind is somewhat troubled since I heard of Ornatus's absence, whom because you know not I will tell what he was, &c.

Where dwelleth not far hence one Alimagus that mortally hates my Father, and all that belong unto him, whose Son Ornatus was, whom if I should commend, you might think me too cruel to refuse his love so unkindly, only thus much I will say of him, He was every way worthy to be beloved, although my fancy could never be brought to like of him, whom upon that occasion I found out, by his Adellean to whom he made his love known to her, who by the flexible colour of her Ruffling to hear her objections. Whereat I was greatly offended with her for making any such motion, prohibiting her to speak of him hereafter. But now this day you have heard what she hath told me, which I am heavily perswaded to credit, to think he would be so much without discretion to enter into so these extremes. But if it be so (as I would to God it were not) he deserved no less, and I will that I have refused to hear his suit, though I am not willing to yield thereto; for I would not have it said of me, not have my name so much blazed, that my cruelty procured him this extremity, though his folly might have forseen such mischief, and more moderately have tempered his love.

Ornatus hearing occasion to be so ripened for the effecting of his desire, and doubting lest his long absence might alter the constancy of Maades, and withdraw her affection from him, was perswaded that if he should not presently return, he should not only lose the fruit of his long travel, but also the sight of his beloved Mistress, and therefore

bandoning

summoning company, struck in the pate, and so miraculously he ; whether it be so, then in my opinion, you might do well to let him by some means understand what you do pity him. Sooth there, replyed she, you must first know whether I can do it or no, for if I should say I pity with my lips, and he not finn it to, it would drive him to more despair, therefore I will have off to do that till I can find whether I can do it or no. Thele her speeches drave Orantus into a perplexed doubt how to think, being no way assured of her love, and yet merely despairing thereof, for that her speeches gave likelihood of both, therefore he durst not speak too boldly, left she should suspect him, but only rested in good hope to find comfort, and by degrees wins to by her.

Then taking his Lute, he plaid so sweetly thereon, that it would have ravished a combersome mind with great sweetness, which harmony pleased Artesia so well, that when he left, she most earnest him, calling him Silvio, to play again. Whilst he sate playing, Artesia sitting close by his side fell fast asleep, which he perceiving, left off his play to further himself with beholding her fweet beauty, in which he took such delight, as almost ravished his senses; sometimes thinking that sometimes he stept to imprint a kiss upon her ruddy lips, but fearing thereby to awake her, and lose that delightful contemplation he beheld: Beholding each part of her visible form, which was most divine, his mind was offered with inward joy, to think what perfection her inward features did comprehend, which his fancy perswaded him to be Rare and Excellent: But seeing her stir, he suddenly caught up his Lute again, playing thereon to continue her in that sweet slumber, calculating by the same to enter into his former contemplation, he compared his delight, to exceed all humane felicity, and wishing that if she could not love him, that she would grant us to behold her.

Orantus he had a good while continued in these meditations Artesia awoke, which somewhat grieved him, but when he beheld her beauteous Eyes fixed upon him, he thought himself enriched with a heavenly happiness, to whom Artesia said, I thank you good Silvio, for thy Musick hath somewhat eased my heart by this quiet sleep: Oh what content do they enjoy that live void of care; and how happy am I to be (said she Orantus name) with that she arose and departed.

When

When night approached, which he thought came too soon for by that he must lose the sight of his beloved, he began to think of some means to further his suit, wherein he found many difficulties; sometimes thinking Artelia was in hope never to hear of him again, and sometimes supposing she did pity him: Being overcome with contrarieties of doubts, he uttered these complaints.

What should I do to procure my content, when my misery is one way great, and my joy as exceeding, when my despair exceedeth, and yet my comfort abundeth: I enjoy Artelia's love, and yet not her love: I enjoy her sight, and yet not her sight: I have as much comfort as filleth me with joy, and yet dangerous sick with despair. How can this be? She loveth me as I am Silvia, but hates Ornatus under the name of Silvia: I enjoy her sight, but not as Ornatus, where I am as it were deprived of seeing her: I reap exceeding comfort by beholding her beauty, but I live in despair lest she should know love, if she knew what I were: Though I enjoy many things as being Silvia, yet am I deprived of all comfort, as being Ornatus; for she supposeth him to be dead or fled, having no hope ever to see him, and if I should shew any sign that he were living, or near, she would presently eschew my company, which being as I am, I may enjoy; and thus am I void of all means of obtaining her love, yet living as I do, I shall still enjoy her. Why Ornatus thou hast better means to give her knowledge of thy love in this disguise: Supposest thou should'st make known to her what thou art, thinkest thou she would bestow the esteeming thou offerest, or not behaviour towards her than what agreeth with her estate? What if she did so say that, wert thou not better to endure the greatest extremity by her done, than pine away with grief in her ablence? Stay Ornatus, stay, in being as thou art, thou art more happy: for if she fell not love thee, yet for thy good will she cannot hate thee; as though she knew what thou art, she will rather [illegible] whether she love or no? But how? Make myself known? No, I will write a Letter which I will leave in some place where she shall find it, and by that means I shall see whether she will love me or no; and taking Pen, Ink, and Paper, he writes as followeth.

To

To the most Vertuous *ARTESIA*, the forsaken *ORNATUS* sendeth humble greeting.

Excellent Lady:

WEre you but so Merciful as Fair, I would not despair of pity, or were you so willing to know my Truth and Loyalty, you would (though not yield to my suit) yet be more gentle to me: I cannot use Protestations, or dissemble Grief, but be you assured, that what Proceedeth out of my lips comes from my Heart: Extremity makes me overbold, and Despair makes me more desperate in uttering my mind; I cannot chuse but say I love you, for that I love indeed, nor can I set it forth with filed Tearms, but in Plain Truth protest that my Love is Constant, Loyal, Vertuous, and Immoveable, and though you hate, yet I must love, and although you for ever deny, yet will I still persist in constancy, for the worst I can endure is but Death, and that my Soul already feeleth. I have forsaken my Parents, Friends, and all, to become acceptable unto you: Whilst I was *Allinus* Son you did hate me, then I beseech you, now that I am not *Allinus* Son, nor *Ornatus*, pity me; for without your pity I die, and little can my Death profit you; but letting me live, you shall for ever enjoy a faithful Servant: So most vertuous *Artesia*, I commit my cause to your wise consideration.

Yours inseparably, neither Ornatus nor himself, but your poor and faithful Servant.

When he had written this Letter, and sealed the same, the next Morning he laid it in a place of the Garden, where he knew Artesia would walk; and from thence coming to her Chamber, found her ready to go forth.

Artesia welcomed Silvia kindly, and forth they went together, and walking up and down together, Artesia espied the white Paper, and desirous to see what it was, took it up, and reading the Superscription, marvelled what the Contents should be, and how it should come there, and turning to Silvia, said: See you this Letter, it is directed to me, I marvel how it should come here, unless it were laid of purpose: Well, however it be, I will read the Contents, and you shall be partaker of them. When she had read the same, and well understood that it was Ornatus, she was exceedingly vexed, saying: I now perceive Ornatus was wiser than I took him to be;

for I see he hath committed no outrage upon himself, but intends to try me first, and if I will not yield to love him, what will he do? marry, return to his Father again: This is Adelena's doing, and according as I thought they are agreed; she left this Letter here, and her I blame, and not him, for had she not promised him to do it, he would never of himself have undertook it. Silvia I prethee counsel me what I should do herein, for my heart is oppress with many thoughts, which I will not utter until I know thy mind: whereupon she made this answer.

Madam, since it is your pleasure to grant me licence to deliver my mind, take it briefly thus: First, I say, if Ornatus loveth according as he protesteth, as no doubt but he doth, you have good reason to pity him, for that by your own report, he is every way worthy thereof; which if you do, you will be sure of a constant friend, & a means to preserve his life, and make unity between your Parents: And as for Adelena, if it were her deed, she did but the part of a friend; but it is very unlikely, for she was not here since yesterday; neither can I think any man so impious as to dissemble so much, as to protest such protestations and falsifie them, for his words in my fancy bear an evident likelihood of truth; therefore if I may counsel you, yield to that which is vertuous, and in so doing, you shall purchase your own good, his content, and perpetual quiet to both your families.

Would you have me then, quoth she, yield to love mine Enemy? How is he your enemy, said Silvia, when he loveth you? He is mine enemy, because his Father hates me, then how can he love me? May rather, quoth Silvia, his Father not loving you, how can he chuse but love you, because he sees them hate you that are worthy to be beloved; besides, their hatred being unjust, it shews his vertue the more, to love those his Parents hate; and it is commonly seen, where there is hatred betwixt the Parents, the Children have loved most dearly, as in common experience it is seen: have you not read the Histories of Piramus and Thisbe, Romeo, and Juliet, and many others, whose love was the more constant, by so much more their Parents hatred was deadly.

I remember such Histories, quoth Artesia, but what was the end of their love: was it not most miserable? I grant it said (Silvia) but there

there misfortune was procured by their Parents cruelty, but not their love, wherein notwithstanding they took such secrecy, that they rather chose to die together, than to be parted; which argueth the enmity between Parents cannot break off the love between children; yet might such Tragical Events easily have been prevented by Wisdom. But how shall I know, fair Artesia, whether Ornatus love be so constant or no? Can you have any greater proof thereof, then his own Letters, the forsaking of his Parents, and living peradventure in penury? but if you doubt of that, once again try him.

Well said Artesia, I asked but thy counsel, but instead thereof thou usest perswasion; but seeing thou art so forward to do me good, which I hope is thy intent, if thou will keep my counsel, thou shalt both know my mind, and what I intend. Assure your self, quoth Silvia, I will sooner lose my life and comfort, than prove unfaithful. Then said she, I confess to thee, that love hath made entrance into my heart, that willingly I would both pity Ornatus, and grant his request; for that with often remembring him I cannot forget him, neither doth any thought please me, but when I think of him; but there are so many stops to hinder our love, that though I love him, I should never enjoy him: For should my Parents but know thereof, they would pry so warily into my actions, that it were impossible for me once to have a sight of him, whom I do scarce remember, I have so seldom seen. You may, quoth Silvia, both love him and enjoy him; and since you have begun to like of him, be being worthy thereof, and equalling you in affection, increase that love; and might I but once come to speak to him, I will not doubt but to effect all things with such sincerity, that you should with quiet enjoy him.

Well, quoth Artesia, I commit all to you, my life, for that dependeth on my love, being willing to do any thing that shall not disagree with modesty, desiring you to keep my counsels secret for ever, for to reveal them, would hazard both his and my safety.

After many other speeches past between them, Adellena entred the Garden. Artesia espying her first, began thus to greet her:

God morrow Adellena, I know not whether I may salute thee as friend or a privy foe, for by thy means I am

brought into bondage: I pray thee tell me without dissembling, which I fear thou can'st do too well, when thou knowest Ornatus? and yet I know thy answer before I ask: Do'st thou not know this Letter? did'st not hide it in the Garden that I might find it? did not Ornatus hire thee to say, that he was departed from his Fathers house, while he lieth at home at thy house? I know thy answer will be no; but how may I believe thee? didst thou not likewise say he loves me, when thou knowest the contrary and dost but dissemble? If thou harbourest any vertue in thee, tell me the truth and dissemble not; for in so doing, thou wilt greatly content me, discharge thy Conscience, and peradventure do Ornatus a good turn. Adellena hearing her speeches, was so astonished at their strangeness, that for a good while she stood as one senseless, but at the last she made this answer: Your demands are such, as that I know not how to answer them; but let the Gods punish me if I dissemble: I saw not Ornatus since the time he came to me, to know how you accepted the Letter which I conveyed into your Casket: for this Letter, I am altogether ignorant; nei. her did I ever see it before: I neither spake to Ornatus, saw Ornatus, or heard from him, since I last gave him your answer, neither know I where he is; but this I do know, That he is not to be found, but for Gentleman languisheth in love; and I dare protest he loves you dearly, neither need you misdoubt, that he is absent or hidden at my house, for it is too true he hath taken such a grief at your unkindness, as will I fear me endanger his life: I wish it were not so, but that he were at my house, then would I rather counsel him to forget love, than endanger his life thereby.

May I believe thee, said Artesia, that this thou sayest is true? Heavens let me live no longer, quoth Adellena, if it be not. Then replyed Artesia: how should this Letter be conveyed here but by himself? with that the Chrystal tears fell from her Eyes.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

How Ornatus love was hindred by news of Arbastus death: How Floretus, to attain Silvia's Love, both confest he slew Arbastus, and intended to poison Artesia.

Augment Artesia's Tears, a Messenger hastily running, came in and brought this News, uttering the same with a very Gashly Countenance, Saying:

O Artesia, hear my Tragick Story; Your Father, as you know, rode forth this Morning to chase the fearful Deer, who wandring from his company, at last by his long tarriance was mist, and all of us coming together, studied amongst our selves what should be become of him: at last we were commanded by Floretus your Uncle, to post several ways in search of him, whom at last we found most grievously wounded and dead. Artesia hearing his words, fell down in a swound, which when Silvia perceived, he caught her in his arms, rubbing her pale Cheeks until she was revived again: Then they conveyed her to her Bed, in such extremity with that sudden grief, that they feared the loss of her life, which exceedingly tormented Silvia to behold: Then there was such an uproar in Arbastus house as all seemed in utter despair, one conjecturing this, another that of Arbastus death: But all in general concluding that it was done by Allinus in revenge of his brothers death.

Arbastus's Wife likewise conceived such sorrow at this unexpected event, that with grief thereof she died. Artesia also with both of them, was ready to yield up her latest breath; and had done so, had she not been well comforted by Silvia and Adellena, who by their counsel and endeavours pacified her extremities.

This news was soon spread into most places of the Country, but because there was no just proof of the Murtherer, little question was made thereof; and Arbastus having never a truly friend to prosecute revenge, Floretus now took upon him to rule and govern all the Estate that belonged to Arbastus, as his Brother, and soon called him and his Lady to be worthily

interred,

interred, building a ſumptuous Monument in remembrance of them.

This being overpaſt, he came to Artesia, and finding her very weak, uſed many ſpeeches to comfort her, giving ſuch as attended her ſpecial charge to miniſter all things neceſſary to her, to reſtore her to her perfect health; ſeeming to be more careful now than he was before, proteſting to be unto her inſtead of a Father.

Silvia all this while was exceedingly grieved in mind, to ſee his love grown ſo weak, and in ſuch danger of her life, not once forſaking her in all the time of her ſickneſs, but continually comforting her with hearty ſpeeches and carefull attendance, not ſo much as once departing her Chamber, but taking exceeding pains to pleaſure her, that ſhe took great delight in her ſuppoſed Silvia, who oftentimes would ſteal a ſweet kiſs from Artesia's Lips, which ſhe permitted, taking the ſame to proceed from a courteous mind, when Silvia did it of deep affection, accounting the eſtate wherein he lived to exceed all other felicity, and his happineſs incomparable, proffering many familiarities, all which Artesia took in good part, which it may be ſhe would have refuſed, had ſhe known who Silvia had been.

Ornatus marvelled much, that in all this time ſhe ſpake not of him, which he deviſed to urge her to do by many occaſions: But theſe extremities had baniſhed all remembrance of him quite out of her mind, which exceedingly tormented Ornatus, fearing this delay would ſome way turn to his ill; that whereas before time he was very pleaſant and merry, and oftentimes would move his Miſtreſs to mirth by diſport, but now that humour was changed, and he ſeemed always melancholly and ſad: And oftentimes when he was alone he would get into a ſolitary place to bewail his hard fortune, which he noted and wondred at, thinking the ſame had proceeded from being ſo long abſent from his friends and Countrey.

One day ſhe found her ſuppoſed Silvia ſolitary alone, and coming unawares heard her utter theſe words; How unhappy am I to love, and not to be beloved. Silvia ſeeing her, left off, to whom Artesia ſaid,

Why

Why how now Silvia, are you in love? Can it be, that your mind is attainted with that venomous Serpent, that poysoneth the Senses, alltereth the Complexion, and troubles the Head and Heart? Shake it off, and cast it out off your sight; for it never did good, but hath brought many to perpetual misery.

Madam, replied he, since you have overheard me, I must needs confess I am in love, which doth not any way cause any such effect in me as you speak of, but I take all comfort therein, my Senses, Heart, Head, and all my parts, take exceeding delight therein. Why then, quoth Artesia, sit you thus pensive alone, as if you bewaild your being in love? Ah, said Silvia, grieve not that I am in love, but that I am not beloved; for I have vowed to live in love together, and will die before I will once change my resolution. What hard hearted man is he (replied Artesia) that knowing you love him, will not love again? Dark is my condition, said Silvia, that the party whom I love knows it not, & yet cruelly doth hate me: neither am I far ablent from my beloveds company, without whose presence my life would decay. Why, is he in this house you love? is it possible you should be entangled since you came hither, No, said Silvia, I loved him before I came hither. How can that be, quoth she, when you are a stranger, and came in this Countrey by Shipwrack, either you must needs be some other than we take you for, or else these things are impossible: But if you dare put trust in my secresie, impart your mind to me, and I will do the best I can to further your love. You may do much therein, said Silvia, and none more than your self, but I beseech you pardon me for revealing the same, before you assure me of one thing, which you may do without any harm to your self, and be not offended if I ask you. Tell me what it is (quoth she) and I will answer you. Then said Silvia I would first know whether you love Ornatus. Whereupon she started sighing, Ah me, that name bringeth death to my heart, and thou wonderst me to the end in speaking of him: Dost thou think I have cause to love him, and not rather above all men to hate him: dost thou not see my Father lately murthered by him, or some by his appointment, and thinkest thou I can love so deadly a foe, by whom I am brought to this misery? No, assure thy self Silvia, according as I have just cause, I do hate

and

and abhor him, as the greatest enemy I have, whose very name affrighteth me with terrour, and if thou hadst loved me, as I was perswaded thou did it, thou wouldest not have troubled me with that ominous name; and yet for all this mischief he hath done me, did not see how he sued for my love, and had so much prevailed that my heart began to yield to his suit, with that she pulled out of her pocket the Letter, saying: These Lines, the fruits of his dissimulation, were instrumental actors in the Tragedy of my Fathers death; whereupon she tare the same in a thousand pieces.

Silvia seeing the same, was ready to swound with grief, and breaking forth a heart-burning sigh, said: Oh how is poor innocence suspected; and being ready to say more, was disappointed by Floretus coming, who even then entred the Garden, and finding them out, used many courteous speeches unto them both, especially comforting Artesia, to whom he said:

Dear Cousin, since these mishaps cannot be remedied, let wisdom now oversway your passionate sorrow, and with patience remit all further grief, for these evils past cure are not to be lamented; but now commit the care of your safety to my trustiness, that will as tenderly regard your good as mine own life; therefore be of good comfort, and whatsoever you desire shall be done. Whereupon she yielded him thanks, and so they departed.

Artesia being alone by her self, could by no means forget what speech she had with Silvia; either thinking she did dissemble, or else was some other than she seemed, or else was in love with Floretus. Then she remembred her speeches, saying, How is innocency suspected, which the thought she uttered because of her accusing Ornatus, which drave her into many doubtful cogitations, and troubled her senses exceedingly: But by reason of her little suspect of Silvia's disguise, could not judge any thing thereof.

Silvia also not daring to offend her, and loving her so dearly, that he could not endure to see her disquieted, used no more speeches concerning love, but frequenting her company, in which he most delighted, he accounted himself most happy to live and enjoy her sweet presence, being out of hope to attain her love: But he beheld that which she little thought, and he most observed.

Many

Many dayes continued Silvia in this disguise, in which time Arbastus death was almost forgotten, and Floretus being drawn by Silvia's manifold vertues, began exceedingly to affect her, using such kind behaviour towards her, that she suspected that which afterward proved true; for Floretus concealing his love, felt the flame to burn the more inwardly, and living in that scorching Tyranny, thought it better for him to manifest his love, than by hiding the same augment his torment, assuring himself he should accomplish his desire, because Silvia was a Stranger, far from friends, and without his favour was likely to come to poverty, which he though would be a means to draw her to like of him; besides he knew he might do what he pleased with Artesia, for that she was now onely in his custody: And upon a day, finding Silvia in the Garden alone, he came to her with a submissive behavior, and said:

Dear Silvia, I would gladly utter a matter of importance, if you would vouchsafe to hear me; and this is it, fair Lady: My heart hath long time been enthralled to your Beauty, the which I have refrained to utter, fearing to be refused; but did you know how faithfully my heart is devoted to your service, and with what torment I have concealed the same, you would pity me, my Estate is sufficient to maintain you well, though not so worthy as you deserve, you shall live with me contentedly, and have a faithful and constant friend, whom no afflictions shall alter, therefore I beseech you let me receive some hope of comfort by your gentle speeches, which will ease my troubled heart.

Silvia had much ado to abstain from smiling, to think how unfit she was to answer his expectation; but commanding a further consideration thereof to time more convenient, gave him this answer:

Worthy Sir, my mind is unapt to entertain Love, considering how far I am distant from my own Country, and how soon I may be overtaken, therefore I pray you seek not that at my hands which I will not grant, but if you please I may live so quietly as since my coming I have done, I shall think my self more beholding to you for that than your professed love, which I cannot yield unto. He thinking this answer of hers being so mild, was a sign she would soon yield, followed

his suit more earnestly, insomuch that she plainly told him, as yet she could not fancy him, having had no trial of him, telling him that she would consider further thereof, and thereupon departed.

Now he being in hope to attain that which was impossible to be had, and she hoping by this means the sooner to attain Artesia's love: First, conjecturing that Floretus had the disposing of her, and therefore he must please him, otherwise he might be deprived of her company. When he began to think of Arbasto's murther, assuredly believing that it was not acted by his Fathers counsel, but rather by some secret foe, and he thought it might as well be her Uncle as any other, for that he was next heir if Artesia entered him not, which thought took such deep root in his breast, that comparing Floretus behaviour, countenance, and little enquiry he made after the murtherer, he plainly suspected him, which was rather by Divine Providence, than any evident proof, which made him conceive this opinion: Such inhumane murthers are never unrepealed, though never so closely committed, the Gods still revealing them.

So came it to pass with Ormatus, although he was no way privy to any such act, nor received any probability thereof, yet he thought Floretus countenance shewed him guilty, and therefore to have some further conference with him to see if he could find out the truth, whereby he thought both to disburden himself of the suspition Artesia had of him, and thereby his innocency and constancy she might yield to love him, purposing to leave no means unattempted to try him, which he resolved to do.

Early the next morning, Floretus not unmindful of his love, which kept him from his sleep that night, never left till he had found Silvia, and coming to her with decent and humble threedes solicited his suit, whom Silvia cunningly handled, still putting him in hope, and yet making him no promise, which set him the more on fire, being so far overcome with affection, that he determined to hazard his life to win her love: But the more unwilling he saw her, the more eager he grew, and at last the said:

Floretus, I know no cause you have to be so importunate, for I see in you no token of Fidelity, but once having attained your

your purpose, you will esteem me as lightly as really worse, besides, I do not see how you can perform any such matter as you promise; for my part I have no Estate, and yet for aught I see as little to by matching with you, I shall bring my self to poverty and misery, and then your hot love will soon wax cold, and then you will reject me and leave me comfortless. Florens not suffering her to proceed any further, made this answer:

Do not for Arbastus Wealth, will not that be sufficient? Why great possessions I now enjoy by him, are enough to maintain us happy, and will afford us all hearts content. Arbastus Wealth (said Silvia) that is Artesia's by right, then how can you possess the same and she living? Do but grant me love sal'ue, and I will quickly dispatch you in that I have a means to get all into my own hands, and therefore I beseech you let no such thought trouble your mind, but be assured that in enjoying me, you shall reap all content and happiness by my humble, dutiful, and constant loyalty. Do but assure me of this (quoth Silvia) and you shall know my resolution after wards.

Florens entring to them cut off their speeches, whole presence moved Florens to the heart, being scarce able to speak a word by reason of his inward rancour; for indeed he hated Artesia, because she only debarred him from possessing his brothers wealth, the more whereof he thought kept him from enjoying Silvia; therefore he resolved by some means to work her death, intent in short time he told Silvia of by this occasion, thus:

One day finding her alone in a secret place of the Garden, after many speeches past between them, wherein he saw the chiefest thing that hindred him was his want of wealth, and seeing that Silvia had in some sort made him a grant only to try him, he began to utter his mind freely, saying, (Deer Silvia) I am so well perswaded of your vertues, and your fair conceit in your humanity, that I will reveal to you the very depth and secrets of my heart, would you but swear to keep my counsel, for to purchase your content, I have determined to put in practice a matter of secresie, which concerns my life, therefore not to be revealed.

Silvia hearing this, thought it decree to swear a thousand Oaths, and break them all, than by nicenels to endanger the life

life of Artesia, which she supposed he aimed at, and promised by many protestations to keep secret what he aimed at; upon which Floretus urged with hope to win her love, and imboldned to mischief, caring not what he did to attain his will, did say as followeth:

You see Arbastus is dead, which was one stop that kept me from enjoying great possessions, and my purpose is, so you will but vouchsafe to assist me herein, to be rid of Artesia, and then all that belonged unto her by her Fathers death, shall be as yours to dispose of. Silvia's heart throbbed to hear his speeches, and intending to sift him to the full, said, Floretus, I am sure you speak this only to try me, and so to entrap me, and not of any intent you have to perform the same, wherein you shall do me the great wrong, and your self no good; for I do not believe you bear the least thought to do it. By the Gods (said he) it is my full intent; and for that you may be assured thereof, it was I that slew Arbastus, howsoever the matter is imputed to Allinus, and purpose likewise to be rid of Artesia; therefore make no doubt of my resolution, for I am resolved to do it. O (thought Silvia) sooner shall thou see my heart blood, than spill one drop of hers, saying; would you have me do any thing herein? you may do it, replyed he, with the more safety, and the manner thus:

Within a mile of this Castle, Arbastus hath a Banqueting house in his Park, where oftentimes he would for his recreation lie, whither I will perswade my woman to go for a season to take the Air, and to recreate her lenses dulled with grief, and none but you to keep her company, and some two Servants, whose trustiness I am assured of; This done, I will get a drink to be made, the force whereof shall expel life, and yet by no means be found out, which when you think convenient give unto her, and when she is dead, others will think she died of a Natural death; and so this matter may without the least suspition be effected, and then you shall be both Partners of her inheritance and mine. Silvia demanded when this should be put in practice? within two days at farthest, replied he, in the mean time frequent you Artesia's company in such familiar sort as heretofore you have done, and my self intends to do the like. Many other speeches past between them at that time, but at last they departed.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

How Ornatus told Artesia of Floretus intent: and how he discovered himself.

FLoretus being by himself, began to consider how rashly he had committed his secrets to Silvia, and entred into these meditations: Doth Silvia think that my policy exceedeth not her shallow capacity: poor simple stranger, she hath undertaken a matter of pastance for me, that mean no less then good will to her: She for my love hath promised to poison Artesia, and is likely that once done, to raise the same sawce; for loved she me never so well, I never will trust her with my life; but peradventure she hateth me, and will reveal my drift to Artesia: Fy, Floretus thou art deceived, she is so far in love, that she doth, and will do any thing at my request: What a Dad and Frantick Cupoid is this? What villany can be intended, which some either for favor or reward will not execute: if I should trust her that is so easily won to such a haynous deed, might I not be accounted mad: yes, and therefore I will not trust her, but Artesia being first dispatched, she shall follow.

Ornatus on the contrary, was glad that he had escaped the ssnare of Floretus treachery, thinking also he was so far in love with him, taking him for a woman, that for his sake he sought Artesia's death, which was the only means to help him to possess her love, which he determined to give her knowledge of and discover himself, hoping that when she saw his innocency, his faithful love, and how by his means her life was preserved, she would yield him love for his good will. Whilest he was in the depth of these cogitations, he espied Artesia enter the Garden, and taking his lute, found her seated upon a flowry bank, under the shade of a Spreete Tree, and perceiving that she was heavily enclined, he sat down by her, and with his sweet melody rocked her asleep: When she had slept a good while, being erroneously entertained with a Dream, she started up, looking earnestly upon Silvia, saying, I prethee, Silvia,

Silvia do not poison me. He seeing her so affrighted, was so exceedingly amazed, and he her self (not fully recovered yet) seemed to be afraid of him, till at last Silvia said; I beseech you what is that affrights you? Why said she, I dreame thou wouldest have murthered me. Heavens forbid, quoth he, That I should attempt so heinous a Deed: but would you vouchsafe to hear my Tragick report, you shall presently be rid of this doubt, for I am much tempted to commit such an horrid act, and I esteem your Life dearer than my own, and would rather wrong than your self that wrong you; but because I have to do in this matter, I will tell you of a monstrous injury [illegible] you. The other day I remember you were expressing [illegible] wish me to name [illegible] that you supposed him to do me some [illegible] death, but both he and Allinus are by means, and far from any such thought; for your Uncle murthered him, which he told me himself. He would win my love, which another possesseth; but suspecting as much as I now find to be true, held him off with this delay that he had not wealth to maintain me; which he had often alledged, he told me Allinus [illegible] Prince Frances was his [illegible] demanded. Now then could it [illegible] you dwell. Swear, said he, this to be secret, and I will tell you: pity that, upon my protestations she [illegible] me that he had murthered Arbatus, and meant to [illegible] perswading me to content thereto, for that he said I only could do it; whereupon (though far from any [illegible] to [illegible] him, and even to [illegible] must [illegible] this manner) I will, quoth he, perswade my Cousin to forsake the Castle and to [illegible] a few days in a [illegible] my brother hath in the Park, where none but you and two other [illegible] whole [illegible] nothing doubt, shall be with her [illegible] will give you such a potion as shall [illegible] end her life, and [illegible] perceive a [illegible] then [illegible] [illegible] thereof [illegible] and none else are left of her kindred, [illegible] the fruits [illegible] of which he told me. [illegible] hearing [illegible] her words, [illegible] like one [illegible] a good space, being [illegible] with grief, and that that she could not speak a [illegible] but at last she burst forth into these lamentations [illegible]

[illegible] thought

thought such foul impiety should be hid under so fair pretext? Bloody man, art thou not contented with thy Brothers Tragedy, but also seekest my untimely end? What frenzy or folly doth possess thee? How can I thou suffer such a heinous thought to harbour in thy breast, much less to act it against him that loved thee as his life, and her that honoured thee as her friend? O Silvia, may I credit thy words and not rather accuse thee, and reclaim him? May I think him so simple to trust thee with his secrets? No, I fear this is some Plot invented by thee to some bad end: Yet I prethee pardon me, for what could thou get by telling me so, unless it were so? Or not rather have done his counsel, and then thou mightest have been my best friend? And yet now I ask of thee, good Ornatus, though thou art a Rival, for that I accuse thee as Accessary to my Fathers death, when thou art innocent.

With that a flood of tears stopt the passage of her speech, whilest Silvia said;

Artesia, yet vouchsafe to hear my counsel which shall prevent all these evils: You may peradventure make some doubt of the truth of that which I have spoken, but I take heaven to record that not one word is false, for I esteem your good above all things, and your quiet above my own content: for should you die, I could not live, for by your essence I draw my breath: I dived into your Uncles counsel, not to aid him, but to prevent him, for that I knew Ornatus was no way guilty of any such Treason, but would have ventured his own life to have preserved your Fathers, whom he both loved and honoured as himself: of whom I could have told you more, but that fearing to offend you, and seeing how hereticly you accused him, I durst not: His love is loyal, and thereon I will pawn my life.

Silvia, replied Artesia, thou reliest me wonderfully, especially that thou art so privy to Ornatus thoughts, and that thou durst so boldly affirm he loves me, when perhaps thou mayest be deceived.

Well vertuous Lady, said he, were you but so privy to the thoughts of his heart as I am, you would say as much as I, and believe all that I tell you, and to put you in assurance of what I know, let me tell you, gentle Lady, that I am he, who in disguise hath sought to attain your love, for which boldness

ness I desire you to pardon me; whereupon the ruddy bluth spread it self into Artesia's cheeks, being ashamed he had been privy to so many of her actions, that she could not tell how to behold him.

I beseech you quoth Ornatus, pity my torment, which hath urged me to this boldness, being frustrated of other means to enjoy your presence; my meaning being no other than vertuous, but resting at your merciful disposition: I desire you to put assured confidence in me for preventing your Uncles intent, which you need not doubt of, for to my grief I know it to be too true.

Artesia marvelled exceedingly at the strangness of this news, but most of all admired Ornatus love, which she could not tell how to reject, knowing he deserved it, and her affection was such, that her safety rested in his secresie; yet being unwilling to yield at time, said; I know not by what name to call you, neither do I know whether you are Silvia or Ornatus, but if either, your words shew great token of friendship, which I fear me is not grounded in your heart, neither do I greatly care, for since my Uncle seeks my life, let him take it, for I am weary of it.

Let not your gentle heart, (quoth he) make any doubt that I am Ornatus, though my counterfeit disguise doth shew me other, but either grant me love, or let me die for you; otherwise that Potion that should dispatch you, shall end my life, which is at your command, and all my felicity resteth in your favour, which if you will not grant, my life without the same will be but short, and the time I have to live, an endless labyrinth of sorrow.

Adellena by occasion entred the Garden, and found Artesia weeping, and Silvia in a heavy dump, grieving exceedingly to see her sorrow: Artesia seeing her, said; Adellena, dost thou love Ornatus so much, as to hazard life and credit to do him good; thou saist thou knowest him to be an honest Gentleman, therefore wouldest thou keep my counsel, if I should reveal a secret to thee concerning him. I will Madam, said she. Do you, quoth Artesia, know Ornatus if you see him, behold there he is. Adellena was at the first astonished at her speeches; but looking precisely upon him, perceived it was he indeed, rejoycing exceedingly to see him there, to whom they declared all the intended treachery of Floretus, and presently departed into the house together.

CHAP.

CAHP. VIII.

How Artesia departed to the Lodge with Silvia, and from thence secretly went to Adrenas house; and how Ornatus taken to be Silvia, was by Floretus's accusation and Arenas's banished.

The next day it so fell out, that the King with divers of his company (amongst whom was his only son and heir Lenon) being in his progress, chanced to arrive at Arbastus house, thinking to have found him there, but hearing of his untimely death was very sorry, thinking as others did, that he was slain by some of Allinus Family, wherefore he did not stay there long, but departed to his Palace: Now it happened that Lenon had beheld Artesia's beauty, and was with the first sight thereof exceedingly enamoured, that after he was gone, he could by no means forget her, but determined ere many days to return thither to see if he could attain her love.

The appointed time was now come, that Floretus had entered to set about his villainy, and according as before Ornatus had told Artesia, he came to her, perswading her by a relation to go into the Country, which she being forewarned of consented unto, and to the next morning she with Silvia and divers others departed: and at night Floretus according to his intent, left but two servants with her, who knew nothing of the conspiracy: When Ornatus and Artesia were alone, she before being undutifully allured of his lewd fidelity, did use these commendable speeches to him.

Ornatus, whereas always before this time too unkindly I have reputed you as a foe, I now crave pardon, being sorry I have done you so much wrong, which now I will requite with kindness: I confess it was strange to me to entertain love, but now I willingly yield my self to be subject to it, and your true and faithful friend, committing my self to your custody, as only yours to dispose of.

Ornatus hearing these speeches, was ravished with a great deal of joy, and with a modest and mild behaviour embraced her in his arms, imprinting a sweet kiss upon her Coral Lips, saying;

Never was any man exalted to more happiness than I am, by being indowed with the precious jewel of your love: What rich reward have I now reapt for my cares; What Glory, Joy, or Wealth, can be compared to the riches of your love? O heavenly Artesia how fortunate have you made me? How have you blest me, how full of joy have you filled me, having obtained your consent? Was ever any so unworthy, so exalted? Well, for this kindness and love, I will perform more than my tongue can utter, and be more faithful than your heart can wish. Then began they to embrace each other, and solace themselves in that which true love pleaseth: Yet sometimes lending her a kiss, and she with interest paying two for one, for five sweet lips two, and so many imbracings as are not to be rehearsed; for their hearts and hands, joyned in firm bands of true affection, as might be, and they joyed in beholding each others presence. But these storms of Love being somewhat mitigated, they began to think of their dangerous estate, and devise how to prevent the intended mischief. In this place they continued some two days, still looking to hear from her Traiterous Kinsman, who the third day, fearing to trust any with a matter of such weight, came to bring the Potion himself, pretending he came to visit Artesia, delivering the same to Silvia, willing her the next night to give it her, which she promised him to do.

When he was gone, she came to know what News her Uncle had brought, who told her all, and shewed her the potion in a Glass, which he had ordered should be given her the next night; whereupon she began to lament, and exclaim in extream sort: But he entreated her to cease such a vain grief, which could not hurt him, but her self, alluring her to prevent the same; therefore, said he, depart from hence to Adellena's house, whither I will conduct you and return. This said, they departed, with little labour, arriving at Adellena's house, who was ready to receive him; and after many farewells Cinatus departed to the Lodge.

When it was Supper time, the Servants brought up provision, but he told them their Lady was not well, and therefore would eat no meat that night; and being alone by himself, he studied what excuse to make for Artesia's absence when her

her Uncle should come, spending that night in much care, and many unquiet Cogitations hindred him from his sleep.

Floretus was no sooner returned from the Lodge, but he met Prince Lenon, who came purposely to visit Artesia, whom Floretus kindly saluted, marvelling much wherefore he came, to whom he said:

Sir, I came to see the fair Artesia, to whose beauty my self is inthrall'd, not as regarding her wealth, but her love, therefore pray admit me to her presence.

He was so amazed to hear his speeches, that he could not tell what answer to make, how to recule her sentence; that the Prince seeing him in such a study, continued on his speeches, saying: Floretus, be not unwilling that I should match with Artesia, for that shall no way hinder your preferment; who think peradventure the longer she liveth unmarried, the more wealth to possess: But to rid you out of that fear, be but a means to win her consent, and I vow to Heaven I will diminish not a penny of her Fathers Wealth from her, but thou shalt have it all, for it is not possessions I desire, but love, resolve me therefore.

My Lord, replyed he, your offer is so bountiful, besides my duty urging me, I am ready to perform your will to the utmost of my power. I thank you, quoth he, then prethee conduct me to her without delay. My Lord replyed he, that I cannot do presently, for two days past we departed hence with the strange Damzel, and they are both now at the Lodge, whither if you please we will go to morrow morning. Agreed, said Lenon, I accept your proffer.

When the time of rest was come, and Floretus being all alone by himself, he began to enter in to these meditations: What inconveniences hast thou run thy self into Floretus: Thou hast tired one to murther Artesia, in hope to get her Wealth, and made Silvia acquainted with thy proceedings, which Wealth thou mayest not attain by preserving her; besides to win her love to Lenon, shall ever find him my faithful friend: What wert thou best to do, if thou shouldst murther her, he would make an enquiry of her death, and so thou wilt be undone: If not, then will Silvia be displeased, and so betray all thy Plots: The mischiefs which by thy own folly thou hast run into, are so intricate, that thou knowest not how to shun them: Were it not better to save her life, and win her love for Lenon, than

to poyson her, and so die my self: If I save her life, Silvia will be discontented; what of that? then let her smart for it; and if she will not be contented with that, she shall never live to discover my intended Treachery, therefore I will first try her, and finding any suspicion thereof, I will slab her my self, whose death I may easier answer, than my Cousins.

The morning being come, the Prince rid he rode to the Lodge, where he no sooner arrived, but he met with Silvia, to whom he said: Well met Silvia, I have news of great importance to impart unto thee: Lenon, whom thou here beholdest is Son to the King, and is deeply in Love with your Lady, and hath given me full assurance of her Fathers lovings, if I can win her to match with him; now I think it convenient to defer our purpose as concerning her death, and let her live, till we make trial whether she love him or no, which if we can effect, we shall be quit of so great a debt, enjoy her Heritage, and have an assured friend of the Prince, therefore tell me your opinion herein.

All this I like well, quoth she, but it is now too late, for I have caused her to drink off the poison you delivered to me, and she is dead, which was of such force, that all her body rose up in blisters, and because I knew it would betray us, I took her body and conveyed it into a deep Pit, where it is impossible to be found.

Florenus fearing to have his Treason now brought forth, in a monstrous rage drew his Dagger, with intent to stab her to the heart, but by chance it lighted on her left Arm, who feeling the smart thereof, presently stept to him, by main force wringing the Dagger out of his hands, and with the same hit him very hitchree places, and had not Lenon stept between them he had been slain.

When he had parted them, he demanded what the matter was? Florenus thinking rather to accuse, than to be accused himself, terrified with anger, said: That wicked Woman hath murthered Fenesia. Silvia made no Answer, until Lenon laid hold on her, demanding where Fenesia was? who answered: By the enticement of that wicked woman, I gave her a Drink that Poysoned her.

O wicked Strumpet, said Lenon, thou hast condemned thy self, and therefore worthily shall thy accursed life make satisfaction for her death, whereupon he began to draw out his Sword, but Orsinus now thinking it no time to dally, lest he might be

murthered

murthered by them, caught hold on Lenos sword also, having such advantage that he easily got it from him, saying: Mistake thy Prince, be advised, and seek not to spill thy innocent blood without consideration, lest thou lose thy own. Thinkest thou that I am as guilty as that Traytor is? No, be assured I am not: But if thou lovest Justice, lay hands on him, for none else is guilty of her death.

By this time the Princes servants hearing the noise, did come running in with their Swords drawn, and by their Lords command, first apprehended Floretus, and afterwards sought by violence to take Silvia; but he standing in his own defence, slew them, alledging innocency, till Leno bowed it with the accessary thereto, he would not suffer, but have [illegible] before the King.

Ornatus thought it better to yield by fair means, rather than by compulsion; and esteeming it less grief to be made a prisoner, than to declare where she was, yielded; being both carried to the Palace, and for that night put into several prisons.

Floretus being thus in durance, his Conscience so deeply accused him of Villany, that he cursed and exclaimed against his hard fortune, and railed against himself for trusting Silvia, with extream fear of death, seeming to be altogether desperate and hopeless.

Ornatus on the other side, took that trouble patiently, as endured for Artesias sake, fearing nothing because he knew himself innocent, and could easily quit himself of such accusation, purposing rather to hazard the worst than discover who he was.

The next day they were brought before the King, where Floretus upon Silvia's accusation, confessed the truth; both concerning Artesia, and how he slew Arbatus, for which he was condemned to die within two days. And, quoth he, to Silvia, because thou art a stranger, and by him was drawn to do the deed, I will pardon thee thy life, but, among thee, to be banished this Countrey; and because none shall lack thy life, thou shalt presently be conveyed from hence.

Then he commanded she should be conveyed to the Bailey presently, committing her to the custody of certain Moors, who not daring to hurt, what soever the wanton mood carried her away; to whom he should have told the truth of all, but to shun to shew that understanding him, with pitty spared executing the

Princes command, rudely hailing him aboard, and hoising Sail never stood till they arrived in the Coast of Natolia, where they were commanded to leave her.

CHAP. IX.

What sorrow Artesia took for Ornatus absence; and of the Adventures befel him in Natolia.

BY this time Artesia began greatly to wonder that she heard not from Ornatus, which drave her into some doubt of her safety, that coming to Adellena She desired her to haste to the Loovre, and entreat him to come to her, for her heart suspected some heavy news. Adellena immediately hasted thither, finding the Servants in great sorrow, whom she asked for Silvia? Ah me (quoth one of them) by this time she is past speaking of, for such heavy news hath Artesia since your departure, that it grieved me to utter, and thereupon told her all that happed.

Adellena loosing no delay, which in those affairs was dangerous, told not to reiterate those griefs, and how contrarily every thing fell out, but with all speed returned to Artesia, who espying her coming, thought her countenance discovered some unwelcome accident, wherefore hastily enquired how Ornatus fared? Adellena could not speak at present, at last she said:

Artesia, sudain laments are no to be used, but speedy counsel how to save Ornatus, for he is carried before the King and is accused by your Uncle to have murthered you; for coming to the Loovre with Lenon the Kings son, who pretended great love to you, and not finding you, Ornatus told Floretus he had given you to the Lyons; whereupon your Uncle would have slain him, but he taking his Dagger from him, would have done as much to him, had not the Prince hindred him. Then your Uncle accused him of your death, so that they were both carried before the King.

Woe Ornatus said Artesia, what misery is befallen thee for my sake? How art thou rewarded for preserving my life. Good Adellena counsel me what is meetest to be done. Ornatus being gone back, there is no remedy, having no friends to plead for him, perhaps may be put to death, chiefly because he is taken

to

to be a Natolian; the effect of your love to him and me, discharge him of that false Accusation: Run to the Palace, find out Lenon, tell him of my safety, and request him for my sake to visit Silvia, Adellena according to her command mounted speedily, and before Sun set arrived at the Court, and finding out Lenon, said: My Lord, pray vouchsafe to hear me speak; the fair Artesia whom you suppose dead, is alive and in safety at my house, who hath sent me to you in behalf of Silvia, fearing some wrong might be done unto her, as suspecting to be guilty of her death, when she only preserved her life.

Lenon was so amazed at her speeches, that he could not tell what to say, being increasingly grieved for Silvia, but at last told her what his Father had done, which appaled her senses with deadly fear. Lenon, notwithstanding his grief grieved him for Silvia, yet he rejoyced to hear of Artesia's safety, determining to go with Adellena to visit her, which he did, and entring where she was making exceeding lamentation, he said:

Fair Lady, I beseech you grieve not for Silvia, for no hurt is done to her, only My Father upon her own confession hath banished her.

Artesia hearing his speeches, with very grief fell into a deadly Trance, both Lenon and Adellena having much ado to bring her to life again; And being couvered to her Bed, when she recovered and came to her self, and saw Lenon standing by her, whose sight was most grievous unto her, she turned her head from him shedding such abundance of tears that she bedewed the place whereon she lay. The Prince perceiving that she was displeased with his presence withdrew himself, giving Adellena this charge.

Gentlewoman (quoth he) since Artesia is in your custody, I charge thee let her no depart from thence untill thou bearest from me again, for if thou dost, thou shalt answer the same severely; but if thou wilt stand my friend, and in my behalf intreat her favour, I will prove so graceful a friend to thee, as thou shalt account thy labour well imployed.

He was no sooner gone, but Artesia uttered these lamentations.

Most accursed wretch that I am, to be thus separated from my dearest love, whose courteous mind was the Fountain of all vertue: How unfortunate am I by my Father's death, and my

my Uncles cruelty, but especially by Ornatus lots, who is unjustly banished into a strange Countrey, where he was true at love, a Gentleman never let fast? How unhappy was he made, when he first began his love? But now most miserable; and by seeking to preserve my life, hath cast away his own, and fearing to be disappointed of my love, hath quite disseuered him from my sight, to hazard his person by Sea and Land: It is impossible he should ever return, being so far countryed from his Native Soil, and left into the mercilels hands of rude people that will seek to destroy pure Innocency? Ah, no, I fear me I shall never be so happy as to behold him again: Well, though I do not, yet shall my love to him remain unmoueable, therefore now will I arm my self to endure all perils, to live in care and continual grief for want of my dearly beloued Ornatus, whole heart I know overflows with sorrow, and peraventure mistrusts my loyalty, having been so unkind to him before, withal knowing Loues affection, may suppose his Dignity might alter my constancy; but sooner shall Ornatus hear of my death, then that I shall once falsifie my vow made to him, already, or yield his right to another, were he the greatest Monarch or Potentate in the whole world, this is my resolution, and I will ever continue it.

This said, another flood of bitter tears overflowed her eyes, and the passage of her speech was stopt by heart-piercing sighings, which in confused multitudes filled with her sweet breath, never ceasing his laments, but still bewailing her true Loues absence; and in this sort she continued so long, that she grew extream sick, and was in great danger of death.

By this time the Prince was gone to the Court, and having been with the King, got pardon for Flaretes life, yet not withstanding he always was to remain in prison. Lenoa likewise having heard of Artelias sickness, refrain'd from visiting her, only he would sometimes repair to her Keeper to know how she did.

Now Ornatus being left in the Country of Natolia, took his misfortunes in such heavy sort, that if his hope to see his Lady again had not withheld him, he would have laid violent hands upon himself, for a season giving himself over to despair, for that he was banished in a vile and base place of the Country.

Thus

Thus carelesly did he continue a whole night and a day, not so much as seeking food to preserve him from famine; but in the end hunger constrained him to seek for succour. When his Stomack served him he could find no meat, that with the extremity thereof, calling to remembrance his estate, he thus bewailed his sad condition:

Thus Fortune, contrary to Nature, deals with her Subjects, sometime hoising them to the top of all felicity, and then with violence tumbling them down again: Alas ever man more fortunate, and so sudden miserable as I am? Could ever any man whatsoever attain more heavenly felicity and happiness than I did, by being possest of Artesia, and now again more accurst, being thus far absent from her, and banished my Native soil into a strange Countrey ready to be famished and devoured by wild Beasts, or that which is worse, never to see my love again: how can any man contain himself from desperateness, being so miserable as I am? How can I withhold my hands from murthering my self, when by doing it I shall be rid out of a wretched life? What should I do? which way shall I go? Here I am in an unfrequented place, where no humane creatures do inhabite, without food, without weapons, in womens apparel, and without hope of comfort. Shall I stay here; then I shall be famished: shall I leave this place and travel on; then I shall go farther from my beloved, and meeting with some ravenous Beast may be devoured: Now being hungry I want food, and here is none, unless I will eat the Earth, Leaves of Trees, or Roots of the Grass: But I will seek my fortune be it good or evil, I care not.

In this desperate mood he travelled on, and by good chance found a Tree whose Boughs were full of gallant fruit, with which he satisfied his hunger, not far from the same place taking up his lodging.

Early the next morning he arose, first filling his Belly, and then his Lap with that pleasant Fruit, the taste whereof was like wine, that being drunk in abundance will make the head light, which made his heart merry, insomuch that he travelled on a pace: But Fortune not contented with the misery he had endured already, sent him another affliction, as shall

He entred into a place like a Forrest, beset with many great Trees

 scattered

scattered here and there, where he met with a huge wilde Bore that haunted those Desarts, who espying Ornatus, with a terrible groyning bristled his hairs, running towards him with open mouth. Now Ornatus began to run with all speed from the Boze, but he making the more speed, he had almost had overtaken him, when one of the Apples he had about him, presently fell down, and the Boze espying the same stayed his hast to take it up, whereby Ornatus had gotten some little ground of him, and seeing him after the fruit so much, cast down another Apple, after which the Boze ran greedily, devouring the same. He was glad of that shift, and still cast down one Apple, and then another, that in the end he had almost thrown away all, and notwithstanding that, feared to be destroyed: But the Boze feeling his belly full, and his hunger allayed, left off his eager pursuit, and followed him more carelesly, whom he still fed with Apples till his store failed, that in the end the Boze fell down and slept.

Ornatus seeing this, having no other than a knife about him, with the same approached the Boze, and thrusting it up to the handle, the Boze after some struggling died; whereupon he rejoyced at this happy escape: But before he could determine what to do, Fortune, once again shewed her mutability: for when he had parted the Bozes head from his body, and with the same was ready to depart, there passed by a Knight in Green Armour gallantly mounted, who espying a woman (as he thought) with the Bozes head, rode towards her, and said: Woman, where had'st thou that head? I prethee deliver it to me. I will not, said Ornatus, unless I knew more cause than yet I do. The Knight hearing that short answer, alighted and said: I will shew no other reason but that I will have it, with that he began to strive for the same, but he having more mind to the Swoyd then the Head, caught hold thereof, and drew it out, which when he had gotten he said: Discourteous Knight, now will I keep the Bores head in despight of thee; with that he thrust at him, and contrary to his thought, wounded him so deep, that he left him for dead; nothing that he had not done that deed, but not knowing how discourteously he might have used him, let pass all further remorse, and casting off the womans apparel, put on the mans Armour, mounted his Horse, and with the Boze

Bozes Head rode back the same way the Knight came, and within a little space found a beaten way that conducted him to a goodly Town, whose Turret tops he saw long before he came to the same: Then he began to study what to do, thinking whether he had best to enter the Town or not, on which he mused a great while.

Whilst he continued in these meditations, he came near the Town, not fully resolved what to do, where he was soon espied by some of the people, who seeing the Bozes head, came running towards him, saying, Welcome home most brave Alprinus, welcome.

By this he understood the Knights name, and that he went of purpose to slay the Boze, whom they took him to be, and that he must of necessity be known, which drave him into an exceeding care what course to make. Then presently he beheld a troop of beautiful Damsels, with the sound of sweet Musick coming towards him, amongst whom, one as chief and more beautiful than the rest, was crowned with a Garland of Flowers, holding another in her hand, who all at once applauded his victory, dancing before him until he came into the midst of the Town, where late the chief Magistrates, where the Damzel that was crowned thus spake unto him:

Sir Alprinus, your conquest hath released the inhabitants of care, extolled thy fame, preserved thy life, and won me for thy love; you have well performed the task you undertook, and according to your desert, I am come to crown you with these Flowers.

When he had heard these speeches, he was resolved to try the end of this Adventure; so alighting, he laid down the Bozes head upon a Table that stood before the ancients, with humble and comely behaviour, kissing the damzels hand, who let the wreath of flowers upon his head, and taking him by the hand, brought him before the Auncients; to whom one of them stood up and said: Most by Gentleman, whereas thou wert before by us condemned to die as deserving it, for this thy valiant deed we freely pardon thee, and quit thee of all Treasons thou hast formerly committed.

Then taking the Damzel by the hand, said: Lucida according to thy desire and his desert, I give thee his Wife. And Gentleman (quoth he) take her as thine own, as freely as he

was by direct adopted mine, and after my death be thou inheriter of my Lands.

To all this, Ornatus gave a free consent, and the night now approaching, he with Lucida went to her Fathers house, and there was a great feast provided there, from which Ornatus thus excused himself:

Lucida, I know your love to be infallible, and your constancy above all women that I know, and that Alprinus is so far indebted unto you, as that he shall never be able to recompence this inestimable favour of your love, which hath preserved my life from destruction: But notwithstanding your love, Alprinus his debt is so great as can no way be gratified, I request one further favour at your hands, wherein my chiefest felicity dependeth, yea my life, my love, and perpetual good, which I fear to utter, lest you should misconceive the same, there being no other thing to hinder the content Alprinus seeketh, but only our favourable consent to banish all mistrust of my Faith.

Lucida marvelled at his speeches, indeed loving him so well that she would have spilt her own blood for his sake, saying: You have no need to make doubt Alprinus, of my consent what soever it be? Know you not how faithful I have been, though you slew my own dear brother, and that I esteemed your love beyond his life: And when you should have died for the deed, obtained this of my Father, and the rest of the Ancients hands, That slaying the Boze that had destroyed many people, should save your own life, and win me to be your Bride, and notwithstanding all this, do you question whether I will yield consent to any thing that shall be for your good? O Alprinus, if your love were as constant as mine, if you intended to continue my love for ever, if your heart felt so deep a sting of love as mine, you would not make such a doubt of my Loyalty, of my Truth, true Love, and Constancy; for you know whatsoever you would ask I will grant, whatsoever you should request, I will perform, and wherein soever a Lover may shew infallible Tokens of truth, I will do as much as any: But if you will not believe me without an Oath, I swear by my Love, my unspotted Virginity, and all the Gods, I will consent, agree, perform, or do any thing, nor be offended with any thing, be the news never so unwel-

come,

come, so it be for Alprinus good, nor any thing unperformed you shall require.

Ornatus hearing with what constancy her speeches proceeded from her, and how grievously she conceived it, that any doubt should be made of her Loyalty, thought most certainly that he might put his life into her hands, and therefore having already studied a device, said:

It ill agreeth with my nature to dissemble, and hardly could I have been drawn thereto, but onely a desire to preserve love; for know worthy Lucida, that I am not Alprinus, but one that for his sake hath undertaken this; the truth whereof if thou will hear with patience I will declare, and tell all the whole Adventure.

Yesterday as I travelled through the Forrest, or Desert, I met Alprinus sore wounded, and flying from the Boar, that pursued him with celerity, which when I beheld (to rescue him from death) I set upon the Boar, and by good fortune slew him, which when he beheld, he told me the cause of his coming thither, which when I heard, pitying his condition, I bid him take the Boars head, and withal helped him to mount upon his Steed, but his wounds not suffering him to ride, I was in a great fear lest he should die: Then presently we beheld an ancient Hermit coming towards, that lived in a Cave in the same Woods, and undertook to cure his wounds, being glad to hear of the wild Boars death, to whose Cell I conveyed Alprinus, at whose request I have performed that which you see, and had undertaken to hazard my life to discharge him of death, and win the assured possession of your love: now I most humbly intreat you for his sake to conceal what I am that I be not known, and so both disappoint your self of his love, and him of safety: Only this, devise a means to excuse me from the Feast, which I trust you will do for Alprinus sake, and then we may have time to study for our farther content.

Lucida's Love made her believe that all he said was true, therefore said:

Sir, I trust there is no cause why I should mistrust you, and therefore relying upon the truth of that which you have said, I will tell my Father you are wounded, and desire rather to go to your Chamber than to the Feast, who I know will

will deny me nothing. This ſaid, ſhe went to her Father, and ſo prevailed, that he was contented ſhe ſhould have the keeping of him, whom ſhe took to a Chamber, ſuffering none to come at him but a maid whom ſhe repoſed confidence in: Afterwards Lucida came to Ornatus to know how he might ſee Alprinus, being moſt careful of his health; concluding the next morning that he ſhould go to the Foreſt to Alprinus, and ſhe would come to him by his directions, which they both agreed to.

Early the next morning Ornatus armed himſelf, and as Lucida had inſtructed him, took his leave of her Father, who took him to be Alprinus.

Being alone by himſelf, having the wide world to travel in, but never a friend to go to, void of fear, but full of care, he ſtudied whither to direct his journey, ſometimes his Conſcience telling him of diſloyal dealing with Lucida: Then he thought with himſelf it was not unlawful for him to diſſemble with her to ſave his life, and though he had ſlain Alprinus, it was but in his own defence.

Amongſt all theſe, this thought ſeemed to acquit him of diſhonour, that Fortune and the Deſtinies had by that onely ordained him to eſcape. Whilſt he rode on in theſe deep Meditations, he met with an ancient Hermit, who coming to him, ſaid: Diſcourteous Gentleman, how cameſt thou by that Armour? and yet I need not ask that, for I know thou ſlewſt that worthy man Alprinus, which I beheld to my grief.

Father, ſaid Ornatus, if thou didſt behold the ſame, I am ſure thou canſt witneſs I did it againſt my will, and in my own defence, for whoſe death I am as ſorry as thy ſelf, and would as willingly have done any thing to preſerve the ſame, as any man living.

Will you then, ſaid the Hermit, do this for him, vouchſafe to come and ſpeak with him, who is in reaſonable good eſtate at my Cell?

I pray the Gods, replyed he, thy words be true; for if he be living it will revive my heart with joy, deſiring nothing more than to ſee him. He is alive, ſaid the Hermit, and if you will go with me, I will bring you to him preſently.

Ornatus being come to the Cell, found Alprinus very weak by reaſon of his wound, to whom Ornatus declared all that

happed

hapned betwæn him and Lucida; which added great comfort to his heart, that he thought himself of sufficient strength to mæt her.

In the mean time they continued in the Hermits Cave, Alprimus in great comfort, and Ornatus in great care for the absence of his Lady, breathing forth many a deep sigh, and uttering many a sad lamentation, fearing Lenous love would be accepted by reason of his dignity.

The next day they both went out together to meet Lucida, whom they met at the entrance into the Forrest, and after many kind salutations past betweem the two lovers, they altogether departed to the Town to Lucida's Fathers house, who that morning was departed to a Haven about business of importance.

Ornatus was kindly used by them, remaining there until Alprimus had wedded Lucida, thinking it then high time for him to depart; and on a time finding Alprimus alone, who had shewed sufficient tokens of his friendship, he declared unto him his love to Artesia, requesting his help for his passage into Phrygia.

Alprimus very attentively listned to the whole discourse, telling him none could effect it so well as Lucida's Father, because he was a Merchant, and did Trafique thither, saying he should soon accomplish his desire; where we will leave him for a time attending some ships departure, to speak of the Lady Artesia.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

How Lenon caused Artesia by violence to be carried from Adellena's house to the Green Fortress; and of the miseries she endured there: How she was rescued from thence by Ornatus Father, and from him taken by Pirates; and how Allinus, accused by Lenon for her death, was imprisoned; and what afterward befell.

ARtesia having by Adellena's means and care, somewhat recovered her health, Lenon began to visit her again, being unable to endure his hot and burning love, thinking her sickness proceeded from fear of Flotetus, not for want of Ornatus, and finding an occasion, saluted her thus;

Fair Virgin, my heart is so far inchralled to your beauty, and my affections so much admire your virtues, that I am constrained to tell you I love you, & therefore humbly sue to you for favour, prostrating my self at your feet to become your Captive and everlasting Vassel, beseeching you to honor me with the Treasure of your love, and I shall think my self happier than all the world besides: your unkind Uncles cruelty you need not fear, nor other misfortune, neither have you any Parents to overrule you in electing your choice, then vouchsafe to accept me your servant, and yield love for love.

My Lord, replyed she, my thanks for your good will, but I know not how to accept your love, being so far from knowing what it is, that I should but dream thereof, my heart would be out of quiet; besides, many cares continually attend the same, and my mean estate so far unworthy thereof, with other innumerable discontents and cares, that I should make my self subject unto, that I had rather a thousand times remain in the estate I am now in; therefore I entreat you to settle your love else where, more agreeable to your estate: for I shall think my self most fortunate if I never fall in that Labyrinth of disquiet, but will during my life labour to keep my self free from loves bands. Lenon would not take this for an answer, but with many other speeches continued his suit, whom Artesia still

still put out of hope, so that he departed exceedingly discontented, leaving her no less disquiet in thoughts, how to avoid his love.

In this sort did he daily visit her, still growing more importunate: And upon a certain time this conference past between them.

Artesia, said he, how long shall I sue and be frustrated of my hopes, by your unkindness? Is your heart harboured against me? Do am I so ill conditioned that you cannot conceive well of me? Or is it possible you bear so hateful a conceit of love as you make shew of? Then may I accuse mine Eyes that have betrayed my Senses, in making them your Captive. Then may I justly think my woe began when I first began to love. Farewell let me not so cruel as to punish me with this sudden death.

My Lord, said she, I seek not your discontent, for at the first motion I told you my mind, which shall never alter, neither is my heart harboured against you more than others, for I am determined not to love, then have you known my mind, it would be wisdom in you to shake it off, which is but a Toy and an idle Fancy that is bred by Vanity; and do not seek to make love grow without a root, for in my heart it shall never be rooted. Then, quoth he, you are led by Obstinacy, not by Reason. For that you are subject to love, you cannot deny, then why not me before another, considering my love is most faithful, withal, being most worthy, why should I not be well accepted?

Artesia was weary of his speech, as having her constant thought bent only upon Ornatus, therefore to rid him from her, she said: It is in vain to use many words; I am none of those that will at the first seem coy and afterwards yield, but be satisfied with this, that I cannot love.

Fair Damsel, how can it be [illegible] that you should able answer, when my life depends on your consent, whose denial will finish? Then give me leave to say, I cannot be so satisfied; but being of a meanly esteem, I must grow perforce so be as unreasonable in my requests. Consider of what Dignity I might advance you to, by making you my Wife; Consider you are the [illegible] Eyes, and of contents you may enjoy with me, and how faithfully I love, and with what humility I seek your Love, and yet nothing

standing you remain obdurate? My power is great, that as I sue, I might command, and by Authority compel you to consent; then be not so over-conceited, as to obstinately to reject your own good; and think, that if my love were not constant, I would use forcible means, which might soon alter your mind.

Suppose (said she) I were so peevish as you fearm me, yet being a free Lady I am not to be made bound by constraint; and were you the greatest King in the World, you could not rule the heart, though you might by injustice punish the body; for it is not Kingdoms Wealth nor cruelty, can turn hatred to love, but it may soon turn love to hatred; but by your speeches I may partly know your thoughts, and the Lips utter what the heart intendeth: Do with me what you will, I cannot love, neither will I love you, were you Monarch of all the World.

Lenon was so grieved to hear her speeches, that he was ready to tear the hair from his head, presently departing said, Farewel hard hearted Lady.

She was glad he was gone, presently telling Adellena all that had past between them, and how peremptory she had answered his importunate suit, telling her that since for her sake Ornatus was banished, she should never love any but he, and preserve her life in hope to see him again, and the first knowledge of his death should be the end of her life, both she and Adellena thinking that the Prince would never return again to prosecute his suit.

But he being come to the place, betook himself to his Chamber, raving more like a mad man than a passionate lover, sometime swearing, cursing and stamping, yielding so much to his frenzy, that in the end he swore he would attain her love though he hazarded his Life, Honour, and good Name, and raging in this sort up and down his Chamber, he espied an old Gentlewoman named Flera pass by his Window, whom he called to, and said, Flera, because I have assured confidence in thy fidelity, and purpose to reward thee liberally, I crave thy counsel, and with it thy consent to be secret in keeping my counsel, and diligent in doing my desires. The old Hag making an evil fashioned low courtesie, said: My dear Prince be it to do you good I will hazard my life, and rather be torn in a thousand pieces, than reveal what you do bouchsafe to tell me.

Then,

Then, quoth he, counsel me which way I should begin to win a fair Ladies love. Marry my Lord, replied he, give her knowledge thereof, and then with fair speeches woe her; if that will not prevail, give her Gold, and no doubt but that will catch her.

No, no replied he, these are of no force, I have made my love known to her by humble suits, submiss behaviours, and by all kind of courteous means entreated her consent, yet for all that she remains obstinate; she is rich, and therefore Gold with her is of no force, she is Fair, Vertuous, Noble, and Chaste, then what Engine hast thou to undermine that Chastity?

Means enough, quoth she, peradventure she is ruled by others counsel, which may prevail more than your suit; but if I might have access unto her I would soon alter her mind, for being young she is apt to love.

Dost thou think, said he, thou couldest win her, wert thou her Keeper. I my Lord, quoth she. Then shalt thou be her Keeper; see that thou art to morrow at my Fathers Castle in the Green Forrest, where to morrow by night this Damzel shall be, whose name is Artesia, Daughter unto Arbastus lately dead; use her kindly, let her want nothing, nor be not in any wise known that thou knowest me, nor that the Castle belongs to my Father, nor speak not of Love in any sale; use her in this sort until I speak with thee, for thou alone shalt have her in custody.

She being gone about her business, he found out two of his truliest Servants, to whom he imparted his mind, willing them the next morning to go with speed to Adellena's house, and either by foul or fair means to take Artesia from thence, and carry her unto the green Forrest in the green Forrest, where they should find an old Gentlewoman, in whose custody they should leave her, and themselves remain there to provide all things necessary till his coming.

Early the next morning the two Servants according to his command went thither, where they found Artesia, whom they spake fair at first, but afterwards told her she must go, if not willingly, by constraint. Then she began to burst into tears, weeping and lamenting exceedingly, upon her knees intreating them not to carry her by violence from thence, but if they would needs, that they would take Adellena with them: But all was in vain, for they constrained her to mount behind one of them, and away they rode in great haste. This heavy

parting was so sudden, that Artesia could not bid Adellena adieu but with tears, nor Adellena speak a word for grief, their senses being so confounded with fate, that their hearts were ready to burst therewith. Artesia thought it was Lenons doing, and therefore sorrowed the more, not that he used her unkindly, but that he loved her, not fearing his cruelty, but his Lust, not fearing what he could do by force, but fearing his Love would make him seek her dishonour.

Being come to the Fortress, and committed to the custody of Flera, the old Gentlewoman began to speak her fair, and use her kindly, but her very words and countenance betrayed her guilty Conscience, to whom Artesia would not speak a word, lest she should give her occasion to prate, where that night she continued in great sorrow.

The next day Lenon came thither, asking Flera how she fared, who told him that she would not speak, eat, nor sleep, but fared like one mad and senseless. But let her alone quoth she, and you shall see this fit will soon be over, the extremity whereof being once past, I will try my skill with her.

Lenon giving order to have all things necessary provided, departed. Dinner time being come, and meat set before Artesia, she refused to eat: likewise Supper time being come, she determined to do the like, which Flera perceiving said:

Fair Gentlewoman, to behold your outward appearance, would make one judge your mind be beautified with divine vertues: but I comparing your actions with your apparent shew, suppose that you are either mad or careless: this behaviour, to seem dumb, to refuse sustenance, and to refrain from sleep, are in fancies of folly, not of wisdom. What if you speak, what if you did eat or take rest, should you be ever the worse? Or refraining, can that do you good, or banish grief? not rather make your estate worse? Do you think to prevent any thing by doing your self harm? No fond child: eat thy meat, and preserve thy life, for living thou mayest attain thy desires, but dying, thou art past hope; With that she departed smiling.

Artesia hearing her speeches, began to consider indeed, what folly it was to refuse her meat; and for fear to hasten her life by distempering her self, which might be the means to further Lenons intent; whom she knew would seek her life, if he could not win her love, she presently left off such delu-

sion

care

rate behaviour, and well weighed consideration, attended the event of the worst misfortune: and from that time, did both eat her meat, and did all that she could to comfort her self still living in good hope of Ornatus return.

Some few days after Lenon came to the Forrets again, enquiring of Flera how Artesia fared. Well, quoth she, but you will do me to conceal that it was your doing to bring her thither, and some body else hath told her thereof, for she knoweth the truth, as well as your self or I: and therefore I would wish you to give a visit, and after that to let me alone to perswade her.

Lenon was ruled by the old woman, and came where Artesia was, saluting her: but she disdaining to look on him, or hear him speak, withdrew her self from his presence: wherewith he departed, willing Flera to do that which she had undertaken, who finding her as she thought in a fit humour began to discourse with her, and amongst her speeches she intermingled love.

Artesia hearing her a while, perceived her drift, therefore made her this reply: Old iniquity, I know whereto your talk tendeth; thinkest thou that I will ever harbour a good thought of him that hath used me thus? no, I will sooner tear my heart out: Thou needest not tell me, that he hath intreated thee to speak for him, for I know too well both his and thy intent, which shall nothing prevail; therefore do not speak to me, for I will neither hear thee nor answer thee, but hate him, thee and thy counsel, and remain so constant in doing so, that a thousand deaths shall not alter me: Is it Love that hath made him by violence carry me from my friends, make me a Prisoner, and which is worse commit me to such a beastly Hag as thy self; If that be his love, let him turn it into hatred, and remain so for ever, for in so doing he shall much better please me.

Oftentimes the Hag would have replied, but Artesia would not suffer her, that she began to wax angry, and in the end to plain fury, that running to Artesia she caught hold on her, and began to tear her Garments from her body, sometime fetching her to with her poysonous Bailes, that the blood followed, and Artesia began to smart extreamly.

Blood Wicke, quoth she, thinkest thou to fear it away with outfacing me? No, do not think that I will leave thee thus, for now thou shalt repent that ever thou camest here, and before I go from hence I will have my will of thee.

Lenon

Then drawing back her knife, she again caught fast hold on her and swore, That unless she would promise to use Lenon kindly when he came, she would cut her throat, which brave Artesia into such fear, that she was glad to entreat her, and speak fair, promising to condescend to any thing that agreed with her Honour.

Stand not upon these nice terms with me (replied she) but here swear to yield to love him, for so thou may'st long delay him, and still frustrate his joyful expectation, whom thou are not worthy to touch, much less to bear such a presuming mind as thou hast in scorn of his love; therefore yield to that which I request, or think not to live: Canst thou forsow thy love better than on so honourable a Prince? Canst thou attain more Dignity, reap more Content, or enjoy more Quiet with any, than with him? Do not deny me then, for I will not be so answered.

Artesia trembling then with fear, to satisfie her, made this answer: I am contented to be ruled by Lenon, whose meaning I know is honourable; therefore I pray do not offer me this outrage, but suffer me to live in quiet till his coming hither; if this will not satisfie you, then do the worst you can, for Death is more welcome to me than Life in these extremities.

Well, said she, I will try you, but if you flatter, beware of what will ensue, for I am resolved what to do. Artesia was glad she had satisfied her, though it were with words which she never intended to perform.

Adellena seeing how suddenly Artesia was taken from her, caused one of her Servants to follow them privily to the Green Forrels, who returning told her what he had seen. Then Adellena began to study how to release her from thence with all speed hasting to Allinus house, where being arrived, she declared all that she knew concerning Ornatus, and how Lenon had carried Artesia by violence into the Green Forrels. Allinus being glad to hear that Ornatus was alive, promised to release Artesia from thence, causing five of his Servants to go with him thither, disguising themselves, not to be known, and knocking, the servants little suspecting such an ambush, or intent, opened the Gate, when presently they rushed in and soon found out Artesia, whom Allinus told who he was, and to what intent he came: She being glad thereof, willingly

ingly yielded to go with him, which the old woman perceiving, made such an outcry that all the place rung thereof. One of Allinus Servants seeing she would not be pacified, drew out his Sword and ran her through, and so with a yelling cry she gave up the Ghost.

Then presently Allinus departed with her, intending to carry her to his own house, to keep her there unknown until he could hear of his Son: And remembring that the two Servants were fled, and would no doubt satisfie their Master what was done, would not go back, the same way he came, though the readiest, then he thought he should meet them, but went a more secret way, thinking by that means to pass unseen, and entring into the plains where Cattle fed, he espied a company coming towards them, whom he supposed to be the Prince (which in reason he could not think, but that fear perswaded him thereto.) The company likewise espying them, who were certain Pyrates that were wandred from their Ships to steal Cattle, marvelled what they should be that were so late abroad, and being ready for any mischief, set upon them.

Allinus thinking it had been Lenon, would neither yield or speak, fearing it should descry them, but resisted the Pyrates, who being used to such meetings, soon slew two of his Servants, giving himself many grievous wounds, enforcing him to yield, who taking from him all that was good, and constraining Artesia to go with them, hasted to their Ships, and having gotten her aboard, to prevent the worst, hoised Sail and launched into the Deep.

Then was Allinus left in most miserable estate, with all speed hasting to his house. Lenons Servants likewise were by that time it was Midnight gotten to the Palace, calling their Lord out of his Bed to certifie him what had hapned; who presently rose, mounting himself, and with a sufficient company rode to the Foxtrels, where entring they found Flera slain, and all else dead.

Then he began to muse who should do that deed, and what they should be that had carried away Artesia: By this time it was day light, and Lenon resolved in exceeding vexation to be so dispossest of his beautiful Lady, commanding his Men to post in companies several ways, if it were possible to find those that had done the deed, whilest he himself remained at the Castle in great lamentation.

His

His Servants had not rode far, but by the light of the day which discovereth things done in darkness, they found Allinus two Servants, whose dead bodies they carried back to the Green Fourels. Lenon seeing them, he conceived that Allinus was a party in this action, and that he had taken away Artesia to destroy her: To prevent which mischief (as he thought then or never to be done) he presently rode to the Court, and humbly upon his knee entreated his Father to grant him licence with a sufficient power to rescue Artesia from Allinus, who intended to murther her, declaring how he himself found her in Adellena's house, and how that he had placed her in the Green Fourels to defend her from the malice of Allinus and other spightful enemies, he being left Fatherless, and how that knight Allinus had taken her from thence by Treason, and intended no less than her ruine. The King hearing his Sons speeches, granted his request.

Then presently three hundred stout and able men armed themselves, and rode with all the speed that might be after the Prince to Allinus Castle, into which they violently and rudely entred.

Lenon presently laid hands on Allinus, whom he found sore wounded, asking him for Artesia, who thinking that some of his Servants had certified him what had been done, confest the truth of all, both of his intent, and how she was released from him, but by whom he knew not, and how at that time he had two of his Servants slain.

Lenon giving no credit to what he said, never left till he had ransacked the whole Castle throughout, but not finding her, accused Allinus that he had murthered her, commanding his men to bind him, and carry him as a Traytor to the Court, who being come before the King, confest the truth as before he had done, saying that he never taught Artesia death, but her safety. Yet notwithstanding the King was so overruled by his Sons accusations that he committed him to Prison, his Goods and Lands were seized upon as a Traytor, his Lady turned out of doors, and all manner of cruelty exercised upon his Servants and Kinsfolks, and commandment given that none should relieve them.

Allinus being in Prison laden with Irons and hardly used, endured his own misfortune patiently, but grieved exceedingly to hear that his Servants were confined to so miserable

themselves

themselves and live in unknown places, especially to hear how his Lady was compelled to seek out a kinswoman of her Brothers that lived in the Countrey, of whom she was entertained, living a poor life, far differing from her former, which affliction she endured patiently.

Thus was Allinus house defaced, his Goods and Lands seized upon, himself imprisoned, his Wife in poor estate, his Servants driven to wander from place to place, ready often to perish for want of succour, and all his dignity turned to misery only by Lenons malice, which was so inveterate that he oftentimes sought his death.

CHAP. XI.

How Ornatus got shipping into Phrygia: How Allinus was set at liberty; and how the Pyrates cast Lots who should enjoy Artesia.

ALL this while Ornatus remained in the Country of Natolia with Alpinus and Lucida, in great grief for want of a meane to depart into Phrygia to see what was become of his dear Lady Artesia: But, being a long time frustrated, by reason none of the Ships that were at Sea came home, he began to despair, thinking that Artesia supposing him dead, might wed Lenon; which grief, and many other doubtful thoughts oppress his heart with such passion, that he began to wax sick, afterwards falling into an exceeding Feve, which held him for the space of three Months in great extremity, and had not Lucida been careful of him, he had there died.

During which time of his sickness, certain Phrygian ships waved on the Coast of Natolia, some fourteen miles distant from the Town where Ornatus was, of which he had intelligence by certain Pagges belonging to Lucida's Father, that which restored his spirits with joy, that within few days he recovered his former health, which much rejoyced Alpinus and Lucida, whose hearts were linked unto him in bands of unseparable love and friendship, who likewise dealt so effectually for him, that they attained warrant for his passage, and furnished him with all kind of necessaries and Coyn to bear his charges.

His Servants had not rode far, but by the light of the day which discovereth things done in darkness, they found Allinus two Servants, whose dead bodies they carried back to the Green Forrels. Lenon seeing them, he conceived that Allinus was a party in this action, and that he had taken away Artesia to destroy her: To prevent which mischief (as he thought then or never to be done) he presently rode to the Court, and humbly upon his knee entreated his Father to grant him licence with a sufficient power to relcue Artesia from Allinus, who intended to murther her, declaring how he himself found her in Adellena's house, and how that he had placed her in the Green Forrels to defend her from the malice of Allinus and other spightful enemies, she being left Fatherless, and how that knight Allinus had taken her from thence by Treason, and intended no less than her ruine. The King hearing his Sons speeches, granted his request.

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Lucida entreated her Father to agree with the Phrygian Merchants for his convoy, so that himself would not be discovered, disguising himself in the habit of a Pilgrim, who all pass without examination. The time of his departure being come, he took his leave of Lucida, who took his departure with such exceeding sorrow, that abundance of tears stop the passage of her speech; Agrippa likewise with many courtesies take him farewel, and wished his prosperous success. Thus departed he the Confines of Napolo, where he was in a short space so well beloved and kindly used, that had not his love to Artesia and hope to find her in health constrained him, he was well contented to have spent the rearm of his life in that place.

The Phrygian Merchants had not sailed many days, but they arrived in a Haven some ten miles distant from the Court, whither Ormus determined to travel; and having taken leave of the Partners and paid them their due, furnished with all things fit for his disguise he took his journey, and the first night lodged at a Village near his Fathers Castle, the custom of which place he well knew, and therefore framed his behaviour accordingly. And being late at Supper amongst the other Guests that lodged in the house with him, the Host named Milo, suddenly sighed, which one of them noting, demanded what inward grief drove him thereto: Sir, quoth he, if you have not heard the news, I will tell you so much as I know, which I wish I had never known: within few days there dwelt an ancient Knight hereby, named Ulion, exceedingly well beloved of all men, who is lately fain to great misery, the occasion whereof was thus.

Then did he declare the whole manner of all that had happened to Ulion, how Artesia was taken from him, but by whom none knew, himself in Prison, his goods confiscated, and his Wife and Servants turned out of doors, with command that none should succour them.

Ormus heart was so pinched with this news, that he was ready to fall under the Table, which old Milo and the rest noted, perceiving such a change of countenance in him, that they all deemed him to be exceeding sick, but he fearing to discover himself, told them it was but an ordinary thing with him to be so troubled.

But being unable to mitigate the passion, he arose from the Table, and went to his Chamber, where being alone he began to

to meditate the depth of these mischances, imputing the original thereof to arise from himself, that he entred into their complaints.

My misfortunes are without compare, and I more miserable than any wretch living; By my evil destinies Artesia was first left in misery, and afterwards imprisoned, and now surprized by those that intend her ruine and dishonour: My Father imprisoned, my Mother banished, and all his Lands, Livings, Friends, and Servants taken from him, and he subject to Lenons mercy, who is merciless, cruel, deceitful, and malicious: Only by my folly are these mischances detain'd: Can there be any more wretched than my self? Had not my Father cause to wish that he had never begot on me, and my Mother that she had never born me? Hath not Artesia cause to accuse me, hate me, and forsake me, when for my sake by my folly and want of wisdom she is brought to so many miseries? What shall I do? Or what remedy shall I seek when all things are past recovery? Whom may I blame but my self? Is there any that is interested in the cause of these woes but my self? Lenon, Lenon, as well as my self hath procured these evils: His affection to Artesia hath caused my banishment, my Parents woe, and her loss: to travel in her search and leave my Father in Prison, the one will be in vain because I know not where she is conveyed, and the other dangerous to his safety, for assuredly Lenon will now seek his death: and in these and such like complaints he spent most part of that night.

Early the next morning coming out of his Chamber, he heard a great tumult in the Village, the occasion whereof was this: Some of Allinus Tenants hearing how unjustly Lenon sought his overthrow, assembled together with intent to entreat the King for his release, that publickly there were 300. met together. The common People, and such as were idle persons, and ready to attempt, misconceiving them, and bearing a mind desirous of liberty (which they thought they were restrained from by certain strict Laws the King had made) gathered unto them, that contrary to their expectation there was a multitude: The intent of the whole assembly being asked, they answered, that they meant to deliver Allinus, among whom Ornatus in his diligence thrust himself, using many perswasions to urge them forwards, that they were

were ready to run confusedly to the Court, not regarding danger or displeasure of the King.

One of Allinus friends named Tharsus, standing up among the rest, craved audience, to whom they all listned, whilest he said as followeth,

I perceive your intent is to release Allinus, wherein you shall shew your love to him, and do a deed worthy to be Recorded, for that he hath no in the least deserved to have such injustice ministred unto him, therefore be wise in this enterprize, and consider against whom you bear Armes, against a Usurping and Tyrannical King, who may punish this Fact with death, for we undertake to destroy those Laws which by him and his Council were Enacted: But follow my advice, and I will set you down a course whereby you shall attain your desire and be void of danger: First, let us all unanimously repair to the Court, and Petition his Majesty for his enlargement and restoration of estate; if he will yield to that, then that his cause may be tried by the Peers of the Land, and if he deny both, then resolve to venture your best blood in his rescue.

The multitude hearing Tharsus, in sign of consent, generally cryed, A Tharsus, A Tharsus; Tharsus shall be our Captain.

Then presently every one with such Weapons as they had, hasted to the Court, and coming together would not seem to enter by force, but with a full consent yielded to Tharsus directions, who desired one of the Guard to tell his Majesty That there was a number of his Subjects gathered together, with no intent of evil, but only to crave a boon at His Highness hands. The King being certified thereof, was much troubled in his mind to know what the thing should be they would demand, and being perswaded by his Son, would not go out himself, but sent a Knight to demand their request; to whom Tharsus declared the cause of his coming and what they demanded. The King being certified thereof, being exceedingly enraged, bad the Knight return this answer: That he was not to be controlled by his Subjects, therefore would not fulfil the least of their demands, commanding them immediately to depart every man to their several habitations, lest he punished their presumption with death. The Messenger had no sooner ended his discourse, but presently the unruly multitude began to rush in at the Court Gates, some carelessly ruinating what-

soeve

soever came next hand, others breaking down Windows, some assailed such as resisted them, and every one bent to do mischief.

The King fearing the Peoples unruly Rebellion would turn to some greater mischief, than could suddenly be prevented, and might also endanger his person, not knowing who had instigated them thereto, with the Queen and Lenon fled, which when Tharsus knew calling to the multitude, he willed them not in any wise to destroy the Kings House, nor attempt any thing else to displease his Majesty, for that the King was departed, and he had set Allinus at liberty: But notwithstanding some bent only to inrich themselves, spoiled the Kings Treasure, and utterly defaced the Court: By this time the night drew nigh, and every one began to withdraw themselves.

Allinus seeing what exceeding mischief this attempt had bred, which was contrary to his thoughts; yet he thought it not best to trust to the Kings mercy, though he was never so innocent, for notwithstanding that he would suppose it was done by his procurement; therefore after Tharsus had willed the multitude to depart so secretly as they could, every one to his house to prevent further danger, and save their lives by keeping themselves unknown, he and Tharsus disguised themselves, and travelled towards Armenia.

Ornatus was by and beheld all this, glad of his Fathers escape, nor purposing at all to discover himself until he had found Artesia, in whose search he meant presently to travel; but such confused thoughts whither to direct his steps, did so overwhelm his conceits, that he rested like one metamorphosed, not knowing whether he should seek her by Sea or Land, by Sea he thought his labour would be vain, and if he did offer to seek her at Land, perhaps she might be conveyed to forreign Countries.

At last remembring that he had heard Milo say, that she was rescued from Allinus in the Desart where Cattle fed, he determined to travel thither, though he had but little hope to find her there; and being come thither, sometimes bewailing her absence, accusing his hard fortune, breathing forth most bitter sighs in remembrance of her loss, and renewing the remembrance of their love, he spent some three days in that place, uttering his sorrows to the Trees and Birds, for in that place there was none else to hear him; where for a time we will leave him.

The

The Pyrates having, as is before ſaid, taken Artesia from Altinus, and with her ſuch Wealth as they could find about them, having withal furniſhed themſelves with the ſpoil of ſuch Cattle as fed in thoſe places, returned to their Ship, and with haſte hoiſed Sail.

The night being now paſt, one that was chief amongſt the reſt, named Luprates, went down to view Artesia, having as yet not ſeen her beauty by reaſon of the night, but now beholding her excellent beauty, ſaid:

Fair Lady, be not diſquieted becauſe you are made Captive to ſuch as delight in ſpoil, for though our minds are bent to all uncivility, yet to your ſelf no wrong ſhall be offered, ſuch vertue hath your beauty imprinted in my heart; and whereas heretofore without mercy I and the reſt of my conſorts, have not regarded the plaints, diſtreſs, nor what wrong we have offered either to Lady or Damzel, yet towards your ſelf my heart is altered and my meaning honeſtly bent, that I aſſure you not only of quiet, and to be void of all wrong by us to be done, but alſo wherein ſoever I may work your will, quiet, eaſe, or deſire, I will moſt willingly imploy my uttermoſt endeavours.

Artesia looking earneſtly upon him, being endued with an exceeding wit, and thinking it beſt to ſpeak him fair that uſed her ſo kindly, ſaid:

Sir, I know not how to mitigate my grief when it encreaſeth, for how can I be void of care, unleſs I ſhould grow altogether careleſs, being only ſubject to woe, neither is there any ſo unfortunate as my ſelf, having endured ſo many afflictions and croſſes, that I know not how to aſſure my ſelf of any quiet; then give me leave to continue my endleſs plaints, and do not blame me of impatiency, or think I ſuſpect your ſpeeches, or diſtruſt your fidelity, if in ſome ſort I continue my ſorrows; for I have ſo long continued in them, as I can better away with it than mirth, for joy to me is a ſtranger; yet notwithſtanding my heart will harbour ſome quiet, if by your courteſie I may reſt in ſecurity, and by your means be ſheltered from wrong.

By this time they were arrived at their place of harbour, which was between the hollow of two Rocks, or rather Rockie Illands, where their ſhip lay ſafe from Weather, and ſo far under their ſhadow that it could not be ſeen; themſelves conveying

ing thither such wealth as they from time to time got, in hollow Caves of great largeness, where were all things necessary; and having fastned the Ship, the rest of Luprates fellows called him up, who came and brought Artesia into the Cave, where being entred, she was surprized with fear of ever getting from thence.

Some of the rougher sort liking Artesia, began their rude behaviour towards her, but Luprates stepping unto them, uttered these speeches: My Masters thus long have I lived a Captain among you, regarding your good as much as mine own, and have had but an equal share with you of such prizes as we have taken, and rather the least part: Now only in respect of my faith and fidelity, I request to have this Damsel as my prize, the rest of the Wealth take you, in doing which you shall bind me unto you for ever.

One of the rest liking Artesia's beauty as well as he, and of a rude mind, disdaining that he alone should have her in possession, said: Captain, all which you say we confess to be true, neither hath our care been any less than yours, therefore there is no reason why you should claim any peculiar Privilege above any of us; besides you know we made a Law, and bound our selves to perform the same by Oath, That not any of us should enjoy any thing without the general consent of all; then perform these conditions, and let her belong to us all, or to some of the chiefest of us, and in so doing, none of us shall have any wrong.

Thus they began to contend about Artesia, every one desirous to possess her, that all at last were ready to fall out in a mutiny, till at length they cast Lots for her, and she fell to Luprates, who was very careful of her.

Thus for a time the strife was ended: At length their victuals began to waste, and they thought it high time to see after more, determining to fetch in some as they had done formerly; but then Luprates began to take care into whose custody he should commit Artesia, lest in his absence they should do her wrong: Among the rest he chose out one whom he conceived fittest, and to him he committed her, by whose means she rested void of disturbance, though not void of care, that continually tormented her, fearing never to see Ornatus again, or to be released from that place of bondage.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

How Ornatus found Artesia and preſerved her life; and how ſhe was taken from him again by Lenon, and what afterwards befel them.

The night being come, Luprates with the reſt of his followers went into the Plains to ſteal Cattle, and by hap lighted upon the place where Ornatus haunted, being directed to him by the ſound of his lamentations. Luprates demanded what he was? I am (quoth he) a moſt miſerable creature, by misfortune driven to all extremity. Then, replied he, thou art for our company, whereupon they departed, conducting him thither.

Ornatus heart preſently began to miſdoubt, that they were the very ſame that had taken Artesia from Allinus, which cauſed him preſently to ſtudy how to have them apprehended; And remembring that he had heard many complain that their Cattle were often ſtole, he ſuppoſed them to be very Thieves, that with all the haſte he could he ran to the next Village, and calling the Townſmen, told them what he had ſeen, who preſently iſſued out, and with ſuch weapons as came next to hand, followed the Pyrates, and ſoon found them, letting on them, and immediately took two of them, but the reſt fled, and ſoon attained to harbour.

Early the next morning the Pyrates were conveyed to the Court, who being come before the King, confeſt the manner of their life, and where they lived. Lenon preſently ſuppoſed alſo that they were the very ſame that had taken Artesia from Allinus, that demanding it of them, they told him there was a very beautiful Lady in the Cave, ſaying her name was Artesia. Then Lenon without delay, ſtrongly guarded rode to the next Haven, and there got ſhipping, ſteering his courſe by the Pyrates directions to find their Fort.

Ornatus after he had railed the people, ſecretly followed the Pyrates unto the place where their Ship lay, and among the reſt entred the ſame, who by reaſon of their haſte and exceeding fear regarded him not, thruſting himſelf only into that

that danger to see whether Artesia were in their custody, not reckoning how his life might be endangered thereby: But the Pyrates by Luprates directions hasted to the Fort, from thence taking Artesia into the Ship, not daring to stay there, for that they knew some of their fellows were taken, who might by compulsion be constrain'd to reveal the place of their abode.

Ornatus no sooner espied Artesia but he knew her, and his heart leapt within him for joy to see that happy sight, but he durst not speak to her, nor once settle his Eyes upon her to behold her, for fear of being suspected.

Luprates espying him, marvelled how he came among them, asking him who he was, and what he made there? I am Sir, a poor Pilgrim, that against my will by some of this company was constrained to come aboard. Luprates believing he said true, made no further question, but with hast sailed from Phrygia, conveying Artesia into his own Cabbin, using many speeches to comfort her.

They had not sailed many hours, but a contrary Wind began to arise, and the Heavens were darkned with thick Vapours, and such a mighty Tempest arose, that the Ship was by violence driven back, their main mast broken and thrown over board, and all in danger of destruction, had not the Land been near, for the Ship driven by violence of the Weather, ran aground and split in sunder, the Pyrates with great hazard of their lives escaping drowning, Luprates nor none of them once regarding Artesia: But Ornatus seeing in what peril she was, caught hold on her, and getting on a Plank, being very skilful in swimming, got her to Land, and preserved her from drowning.

He was no sooner past danger, but Luprates would have taken her from him; but Ornatus seeing none but himself there, told him since he had forsaken her in extremity, he was not worthy of her, and therefore should not have her. Villain (replied the Pyrate) yield her to me with quiet, or thy life shall not detain her; with that Ornatus caught hold on a board, which he rent in sunder with his foot, and with the same gave his adversary so sudden and deadly a wound, that the blood issued out at the place till he died. By this time the storm was quite overpast, and he seeing the Lady he loved so weak and feeble, led her by the arm unto a Pellie Bank, where the Suns bright beams had full power to dry her garments.

She seeing how civilly and tenderly the stranger regarded her, and with what pains he had preserved her, when all had forsaken her, leaving her to the mercy of the Waves, being willing to shew that she was grateful, said:

Sir, the pains you have taken, and friendship you have shewed to me, deserve more thanks and recompence than I am able to give; therefore I desire you to think that if I were able I would requite the same; but my misfortunes are so exceeding, that they withhold me from doing what I would; only thanks is the small requital I can yield in token of a grateful mind, being by your means at more quiet than many days I have been, though more disquieted than you would judge, but now I rely upon your vertues with hope thereby to be preserved.

Fair Lady, quoth Ornatus, my life shall be spent in your defence; neither will I part from you until I have brought you to the place which you desire, requesting you to make no doubt of my loyalty; I suppose your name is Artesia, because in my Travels I have met a Gentleman of this Country named Ornatus, of whom I learned the truth of many of your misfortunes, who I assure you is in good health. O happy tidings, quoth she, is Ornatus still living and in health, I prithee where?

She had scarce ended these words, but Ornatus espied a Ship even come on shore where theirs was cast away, and most of the men landed, which was the Ship wherein Lenon was; who beheld the other Ship cast away, and the storm being ceased arrived there; from whom Ornatus knew not how to hide himself, nor did Artesia dream of Lenons being in it, but thought it likewise to be some Ship that by violence of the storm was driven to land there.

Presently the men began to spread themselves every way and some of them soon espied Artesia, giving Lenon knowledge thereof, who immediately came towards her, kindly saluting her, but she being exceedingly dismaid with his sight, whom she most mortally hated, for very grief burst into tears, which flowed abundantly from her Eyes.

The Prince marvelling hereat, little thinking how much she hated him, and how unwelcome he was, rather expecting thanks for his pains than reproof, said: My dear Artesia be not now discomforted since there is no further cause of care, I have most diligently laboured to release you from grief ever

since

since Allinus by treason conveyed you from my custody, taking your absence in great heavinels, for that it pinched my heart to think you should fall into such distrels; but now that all these misfortunes are past, I beseech you go with me unto the Court, where I will labour to procure your content.

Discourteous Prince, quoth she, none but your self is the cause of my woe, whose sight torments me more than all the afflictions I ever yet endured; Allinus carried me indeed from the Cæn Fortrels, not by Treason but to shelter me from dishonour, which you did intend, otherwise you would not have suffered me to endure such misery by my Hellish Keeper: Can I think you intended my good, when you would by force restrain me of my liberty, and force me to that I could not like? Had you left me in Adellena's house, then I had not fain into such misery as I have long endured, nor had Allinus for his vertue been brought to poverty, who being before, my professed enemy, seeing my misery, it so mollified his heart, that he pitied me and sought my liberty, and since by cruelty, not by justice, you have sought his overthrow; then I beseech you leave me here, for I had rather endure the hazard of my misfortune, than live to be tormented with your importunancy.

Lenon was so amazed to hear her unkind reply, little thinking he had been so much out of her favour, that he could not tell what to say; sometimes thinking to leave her there and utterly to forsake her, but that thought was soon erring by his Affection, or earnest desire he had to enjoy her, and once again he said: Why Artesia do you regard my good will no more, than for my pains to yield me rebukes, and for my love disdain? That I caused you to be carryed from Adellena's house, was for that being there you were subject to many misfortunes: And if I imprisoned Allinus, it was for that I supposed him your Enemy, and feared he would have done you wrong; so that whatsoever I did with intent of good, you repay me with dislike, and convert all my doings to the worst meaning, wherein you shew your self too cruel, that will not yield me the least favour for my constant love: Dear Lady be not so hard hearted. Yet notwithstanding his fair promises, vows and protestations, she would not yield to go with him, but desired rather that he would leave her there. Lenon

entreated her if not for his sake, yet to go for her own safety; whereupon he commanded his servants to place her in a Litter, and when she perceived she must needs go, she called to Ornatus saying: God Palmer go along with me, for that the kindness you have shewed in preserving my life, I may yield you some recompence: And, quoth she to Lenon, I request nothing of you for my own self, but for this strange Pilgrim, who caught me out of the Water and saved my life, and do not for his good will to me, use him as you did my dear Silvia, whom you banished because she preserved my life from my unkind Uncle: with that she wept exceedingly. Lenon asked Ornatus what he was, I am, quoth he, a Pilgrim, who was forced to come aboard the Pyrates ship, and (amongst the rest) was ready to perish, but that by the divine providence, I was ordained to preserve that vertuous Gentlewomans life. For that very deed (quoth Lenon) I will reward you most liberally: therefore go along with us. And so they all together departed to the Court.

Lenon presently caused Artesia to be lodged in a most sumptuous pallace in the Court, appointing divers Damzels to attend her thinking by that means to win her consent to love him: but all proved vain, his care was cast away, his cost to little effect, and his kindness unregarded. For Artesia was so constant to Ornatus, that she hated Lenon: for her heart was totally imployed to wish his good and Lenons ill: For she determined not to love him, though she was assured of Ornatus death. Thus she spent her time in continual care and sadness, shewing no sign of joy, nor shadow of comfort, but even as one that regarded no rest nor took felicity in any thing, that Lenon both admired the same, and laboured by many means to alter that humour: But the more he endeavoured to please her, the more she was displeased, and discontented at his kindness, than any thing else. In this sort she continued many days, without the least shew of alteration.

Ornatus all this while remaing in the Court, making the cause of his stay to receive Lenons promised reward; whereas indeed he staied to see what would become of Artesia, or by what means to get her from thence. To effect which, he saw no possible means, nor could in many days come to see Artesia, which filled his heart with grief; only comforting himself

self with remembring her constant loyalty. And one day, being by himself alone, he entred into these cogitations.

Ornatus, thou hast remained many dayes in this place, kept from thy love, and sought no means to set thy heart at rest, or set her at liberty. Dost thou make no more account of her love, than to attempt nothing to attain the same? Or are thy spirits of no more courage, that they will do nothing, thy wit so shallow that thou canst devise no stratagem, or thy mind so cowardly, that thou darest not revenge the wrong Leon hath done thee? What though he be a Prince and Heir of this Land? is not both he and his Father laced for Usurpation? Hath he not unjustly sought the ruine of thy Friends. Can Artesia think that either valour or vertue resteth in thee, when she shall hear how near thou art to her foe, and darest not touch him? Will she not esteem thee a Coward, and unworthy to enjoy her love, Nay, when she knows this, will she not alter her love? Why shouldst thou not seek thy own content? Thou art every way as good as he born, though he now bears rule in the Land: I have heard my Father often say, that his Father was but a Captain in the last Kings reign, till Traytor like, he murthered his Soveraign, and assumed the Title of the Crown; Then revive thy Spirits, seem not to be dismaied with any danger, fear not misfortune, but seek to release thy love, and venture thy life therein, for living thus thou maiest be deprived of her, for Leon by foul or fair means will overcome her, and then thou maiest repent this delay; the King is now sick, and if he die, Leon will reign, who then will do what he pleaseth, then take an opportunity before it is lost.

Having ended this meditation, he began to study how to accomplish his desire, which he found very difficult; immediately whereupon the Prince entred the Court, before whom he stood so opposite that he could not chuse but see him, remembring how earnestly Artesia had entreated him on the Pilgrims behalf, he thought that he might be a means to win her love for him, that calling him to him he said: Pilgrim, blame me not for forgetting my promise made to thee, which I have not neglected for want of good will, but by reason of thousands of cares that daily torment me, only procured by her unkindness; but if thou wilt undertake in my behalf to solicite her to yield my humble suit, I will promote thee to high Dignity:

ty: therefore I pray thee give conſent to follow my counſel herein.

Ornatus was very willing to be employed in this buſineſs, which fell out according to his hearts deſire, and therefore made this anſwer: My noble Lord, for that I perceive your intent is vertuous, I will be ready to follow your directions, and do you any ſervice I can; wherein I know not whether I ſhall prove fortunate or no, but I aſſure you to deal very effectually with her in that which I ſhall undertake. Lenon was as glad as he, that he had yielded to promiſe that which he thought never to perform, and therefore gave command preſently, that none but the Pilgrim ſhould have her in their cuſtody. Arteſia marvelled that her Keepers were changed, mildoubting ſome intent of hard uſage; but when ſhe ſaw ſhe was committed to the Pilgrim, her heart was ſomewhat comforted.

CHAP. XIII.

How Ornatus having the cuſtody of Arteſia, diſcovered himſelf: How Allinus and Tharſus arrived in Armenia, and got the King to ſend Ambaſſadors into Phrygia.

Soon as Ornatus was entred the chamber, he eſpied Arteſia ſitting in a dark corner, bewailing her misfortune, her golden treſſes hanging careleſly down, leaning her arm upon a Chair, and her cheek upon the back of her hand: But when he beheld her ſitting in this diſcomfortable ſort, his heart was ready to melt with remorſe, that breathing forth a bitter ſigh, he ſaid:

Moſt vertuous Lady, I beſeech you pardon my boldneſs in preſuming to interrupt your quiet: The Prince hath appointed me to be your attendant, therefore I beſeech you notwithſtanding I am his ſubſtitute, command me in any dutiful ſort, and I will moſt willingly imploy my uttermoſt endeavours to do you good. Then raiſing herſelf from off the ground, ſhe ſaid; Pilgrim, I thank you for your kind proffer, and am glad you are my Keeper for two cauſes, one for that I think your vertues will not ſuffer to ſee me injured, the other, for that I would hear out your diſcourſe of my dear friend Ornatus, which I was hindred from by Lenons ſudden finding me.

Lady,

Lady, said he, you shall be assured of the one, and hear more of the other, if first you will vouchsafe without offence to hear my speech, and suffer me to execute the charge Lenon hath given me. What is it, quoth Artesia, I will not be offended: The Prince, replied he, hath made his love known to me, and with what constancy it is grounded, commanding and entreating me in his behalf to become an humble Suiter unto you; he telleth me that still you use him urgently, without cause, reason, or consideration, therefore I desire you because he is so constant a Prince, and vertuously given, yield to his love, or give me satisfaction why you cannot condescend to his request, his love being unfeigned.

Pilgrim, quoth she, for that my mind perswadeth me you in wisdom will conceive of reason, and will be faithful to conceal that which I shall disclose, I answer you thus: First, admit Lenon did love me, yet by his usage I find the contrary, I cannot fancy him, for that I have already plighted my faith to another more worthy than he, which is that worthy and deserving Gentleman Ornatus, who likewise equalleth me in affection, and therefore I should dishonour my name, break my faith, and reap perpetual infamy, if I should shew my self so unconstant: These I think are reasons sufficient to a reasonable creature.

Your reasons, quoth he, are great, and the cause such as can no way be violated; but now you are subject to his mercy, and he may inforce you to that which you are most unwilling to have done; then what remedy have you but rather to yield, than endure such extremity as he may use? When, quoth she, I can preserve my life no longer from his Lust, Death shall rid me from his power, which I will execute upon my self, rather than condescend to yield him so much an outward shew of favour, therefore I pray you use no more words tending to the breach of my Faith and furtherance of his love; for knew you but how hateful his name is to me, and how odious his doting love is in my hearing, you would desist, for I am resolved never to love none but Ornatus.

Hearing these words he was so ravished, that he had much ado to refrain from discovering himself, uttering these speeches; How happy is that Gentleman by attaining the love of so constant and vertuous a Lady? What comfort may

these

these pleasing words bring to his heart? His reward now is greater than his pain, his pleasure more than ever his sorrow could be, and his gains a thousand times beyond his loss: Why should I then conceal the truth of his safety from you? whereupon he said: Behold dear Lady your faithful friend, with that discovering himself, she perfectly knew him, being amazed at his sight, both saluting each other with great joy, insomuch that they were loth to part, but fear to be espied compelled them, taking such exceeding comfort in each others presence, as not to be expressed; withal using many kindnesses which had past between them formerly, he sometimes embracing her, and she again with a sweet kiss welcoming him, being so kind and hearty, as would ask a skilful Pen to decipher: But at last having somewhat recreated themselves, and with sudden joy banished some part of their care, thought it time now how to study, to procure their future happiness, lest the same might again be crost by the Prince, who by that expected to hear from his Messenger, therefore Ornatus said thus:

My most dear and kind Artesia, by whose love my life is saved, I am not able to express the joy my heart feeleth at this our happy meeting, being very much grieved to hear of the sorrows you have undergone through my oversight, but to prevent them hereafter, I will study how to convey you out of Lenon's custody, who will leave no means unaccomplished to attain his desire: therefore in this extremity, if you will be contented to esteem me as your friend, and follow my directions I will labour to purchase your freedom.

Dearest friend, said she, I have dedicated my self wholly to your disposition, and make my self only yours, both in heart, body, and mind, that whatsoever you would with your self, you do to me, and whatsoever pleaseth you cannot displease me, I esteem my self as your self, committing all things to your wisdom, and rest to be ruled, counselled and ordered by you in whatsoever you shall think convenient, and will do any thing you shall counsel me unto, both for our escape and otherwise, accounting my bliss yours, and yours mine, and your content my quiet; as for the Princes love; it is hateful to me and injurious to you, therefore work what means you will to free me and revenge your self, for my mind is ready to yield to any thing you shall approve of.

I most humbly thank you, quoth he, and first I think it convenient to procure a good liking with him, which to accomplish, at his next coming shew more favour to him than heretofore you have done, which when he perceiveth, he will not only credit me, but be hereafter ruled by me, and in all things follow my counsel: This performed on your part, refer the same to me.

My dearest Joy, quoth she, I will do this at thy request, otherwise I would never have condescended to it, and shall desire the Gods to deliver us from his power, that we may enjoy each others love: these speeches ended, they parted with a sweet kiss, she sighing and he weeping.

Not long after Lenon came to Ornatus, to know whether he had done as he promised in his behalf, whereupon he made this answer:

My Lord, I have used many perswasions to her, which in some sort hath prevailed, but I doubt not hereafter by further conference to win her full content, if your Honour will be pleased to be directed by me, and not with rashness mar all; therefore go in now unto her, but not too rathly, and see if she be not altered.

Lenon then embraced him in his arms, saying: Thou bringest me tidings of exceeding comfort, for which I will reward thee most bountifully, with that he gave him a Purse of Gold, which he received, thinking that would be a means to further him, and under the glver.

Lenon entring into Artesia's Chamber, uttered many kind speeches unto her, whom she used with more kindness than ever she had done before, which filled his heart with exceeding joy, and made him according to the Pilgrims directions, more careful of his behaviour, lest by any boldness he might offend her, and so having past some small time with her, he departed.

Now was Ornatus studying how to release Artesia, to further which it thus fell out.

Allinus and Tharsus, as is before said, gat shipping for Armenia, & arrived there with safety: First directing their course to the Kings Palace, where Allinus was most honourably entertained, being somewhat allied to him, to whom he declared the cause of his exile, & the injury done to him by Thæon King of Phrygia.

Turbulus King of Armenia, comforted him all that he could, bidding him request any thing at his hands and he would grant it him.

Allinus alleadging many things to perswade Turbulus to yield thereto, requested him to send Ambassadors to Phrygia, to request performance of certain Articles, or else to give him open defiance for War, the Articles were these.

THat Allinus should be restored to his Lands, and the Damage and loss he had sustained should be repaid to the full: That his Wife should be recalled from banishment, and that he should yield up Artelia to Allinus, if she would be in his custody, and that the King and Lenon should be sworn to perform all this.

Turbulus was easily won, and therefore presently sent four of his Noble men as Ambassadors, to request the performance of certain conditions; who when they were landed in Phrygia, and news thereof was brought to the Court, Thæon himself being somewhat sickly, sent Lenon to meet them and give them entertainment, who was loth to depart from his Ladies presence, but assuring himself of the Pilgrims faith, he committed her wholly to his custody.

The Kings Son having met the Armenian Ambassadors brought them to the Palace, where they were honourably entertained; and having delivered their Ambassage, Thæon told them they should receive answer within two days. Lenon hearing the Articles, counselled his father not to yield to perform any such conditions, but rather to send defiance; for (quoth he) your Majesty is as absolute a King of Phrygia as he is of Armenia; then what dishonour were it for you to be at his command, and seem to be afraid of his threats: To bind your self to this, were to become his subject. The King being over-ruled by his perswasion, returned the Ambassadors this answer:

That he meant not to perform the least of those Articles they demanded, nor feared the threats of war, for that he was able to deal with a mightier Foe than he; using many other words, and some of reproach: so that the Armenians denounced open War and departed presently.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

How Ornatus staying too late in Artesia's Chamber, was accused by Lenon's servants, whom he slew. How Allinus with a Band of Armenians landed in Phrygia: And how Ornatus was imprisoned.

THeon knew that the King of Armenia would perform his word, and therefore gave Lenon charge to muster up men throughout the whole Land: committing the chief charge of the Army, and ordering of these affairs unto him: who more hardy, bold than wise, undertook all, and in short space had gathered an exceeding great Army, and furnished certain Ships, to meet with the Armenians by Sea; If it might be possible, to vanquish them before they should land.

These troubles filled the Commons hearts with grief, and their mouths with murmurings; for they understanding that the King of Armenia did offer War to Phrygia, in the behalf of Allinus that was generally beloved; there was few of those that were prest to those Wars, but came unwillingly, or rather by constraint, being more ready to turn their sworn points against Theon, than against Allinus.

Ornatus likewise hearing of these Wars, by his wisdom found out the opinion of the multitude, and with what unwillingness they came to the Wars: And being in some sort allured thereof, he came to the Camp, and amongst all the rest of his familiars, espied Phylastes, who always loved him most dearly, him he knew to be of a most faithful and constant resolution in performing his promise, and was by Lenon appointed one of the chiefest Leaders. Ornatus finding him somewhat remote from the Camp, came to him, and after salutation, said: Sir Phylastes, I am sent unto you by a dear friend of yours, named Ornatus, who trusteth so much in your vertues, that he is willing to put his life into your hands, which you shall hazard in denying him one small favour, which with safety you may grant; for I therefore I require but your promise for your warrant; and then I will declare what is he in charge.

My Friend (quoth Phylaſtes) thou telleſt me news of wonder, when thou ſayeſt thou comeſt from Ornatus, whom I fear is long ſince dead, but if thou knoweſt the contrary, and canſt reſolve me thereof, I promiſe and ſweare to perform whatſoever thou ſhalt demand: for I am ſure Ornatus knoweth that I love him, nor maketh any doubt thereof: which if he do, he inſureth that love and friendſhip which hath paſt between us.

Then kind Sir (quoth he) Ornatus is not dead but in ſafety, and I am that Ornatus, who notwithſtanding my ſpeech, make no doubt of your love.

Phylaſtes beholding his countenance, knew him well, and for joy caught him in his armes: My dear friend Ornatus (quoth he) I am glad of your ſafety, and let me be accurſed, if I do not any thing you ſhall command.

I thank you (quoth Ornatus.) To enter into the tedious diſcourſe of our afflictions, would take up too much time; but in few words, I will tell you all, I loved Arteſia long, but found no hope nor means to attain my love; which made me diſguiſe my ſelf into womans apparel, naming my ſelf Silvia, and was unfortunately entertained by Arbaſtus, whoſe death I found to be acted by Florentus: who falling in love with me, told me, for my ſake he would poyſon Arteſia at the Lodge, whither he conveyed her. I fearing to have her taken from me, and having won her love, told her his intent, and conveyed her to Adellena's houſe: then Florentus and Lenon, came thither, demanding her of me: whom I told I had poyſoned according to his counſel: then was I carried before the King, and baniſhed into Natolia: from whence returning in this diſguiſe, I obtained the cuſtody of Arteſia, the manner I will tell you at more leiſure. Now my dear Phylaſtes, my deſire is to change my place with you; you to have the cuſtody of Arteſia in my Palmers weeds, and I to march in the field in your Armour: which if you grant, you ſhall bind me unto you for ever.

Philaſtes yielded to his requeſt: and ſo for that time they parted, appointing to meet the next day.

Ornatus being come to Arteſia, told her where he had been, and what he intended; which made Arteſia ſay, diſſwading him from his purpoſe in this ſort: My dear Love, what need you venture your perſon in the dangers that are inci-

dent

dent to Wear; Will you leave me here in doubt, and not rather stay with me to my comfort? There are enough besides, and too many in the field, and Phylastes is able to execute his own place. Then I beseech you, do not leave me in discomfort: for how can I be void of care, when I shall think you are amongst so many enemies ready to be slaughtered? My dear Love (quoth he) that which I shall do, shall be without any hazard at all, but shall procure both our contents: Then I beseech you remit this care for my safety, for I will preserve my self from danger for your sake. Besides Phylastes hertue is such, as you need not once so much as think amiss of him, who I know would venture his life for my sake. Besides, my honour urgeth me, revenge of the injuries done to your self and me, and my Fathers safety, are reasons sufficient to perswade your consent: besides many other causes alike forcible, too tedious to recite. Then I beseech you deny me not; For when it shall be known that my Father was in arms in the field, and I in this place regardless to aid him, it will turn to my great dishonour; and those that before did esteem well of me, will then begin to hate me: then let not your doubt and true love to me hinder my determination, for on mine honour, your safety and my Fathers life dependeth.

Artesia seeing she could by no means dissuade him, thought not to let him depart so suddenly; but clasping her tender arms about his neck, a thousand times kist his lips, whilest with abundance of tears she bedewed his manly Cheeks. Ornatus took great sorrow at her heaviness, and delight at her embracing, that the contrarieties of his conceits were strangeing; pleasure it self being more pleasant intermingled with care, and care a pleasure to be endued with such delight. Artesia was loth to let Ornatus depart that night, for that she feared he would be in danger the next day, and he as unwilling to leave her in sorrow: the on the one, she solacing her self in his company, he by her kindness making him to forget to depart, that before they were aware night was come, and well spent; and Ornatus then berhinking himself, thought it was too late to depart. And Artesia hearing him make a motion to be gone, desired him to stay; and yet my dear Ornatus (quoth she) do not endanger your self for my sake, for should Lenoms servants find you here, it might

might redound to your great disquiet. Ornatus likewise well considering the inconvenience, took his leave of her, and left her shedding abundance of tears, being gone, found the servants awake, and wondering his coming out, one of them saying: Pilgrim, what maketh thee so lately as to come my Masters Love? Is this a fit time of the night to be in her Chamber? why Lord shall understand your behaviour, and what familiarity there is betwixt you: we take you to be some counterfeit, else would not such behaviour pass betwixt you as we have seen; therefore here shall you stay, until we give him notice of your doings and disloyalty: with that they locke fast the doore, not suffering him to go out or in: Ornatus by that perceived that they had seen the kindness between him and Artesia, which he knew if Lenon should understand, he would find out what he was: these thoughts troubled his heart exceedingly, that he was assured, unless he could be rid of them, there was no means to escape death, if Lenon should know him. Much these studies he sate a good while silent, till he perceived them to incline to sleep, and casting his eye aside, espied a Bill hanging upon the wall, to which he stole secretly, and taking hold of the same, he drew towards them, entring into these meditations. Alas shall I now commit murther, and endanger my soul by so heinous a sin? What will Artesia say when she hears thou art so bloudy bent, and that thou art so hard hearted as to shed thine own Countrymens bloud? Ornatus, be well advised before thou do this deed, and bethink of some other means to avoid the danger thou art ready to fall into. Seek other means Ornatus; yea, but what other means hast thou? None at all. Dost thou not see how they have betrayed thee, and made thee prisoner? Why, what needeth then make a question to take thy self, and by their death preserve thine own life, whichif thou permit to them to live, will be in jeopardy, for when being removed, thou art sure of. With that, lifting up his arm much more stay want'd there, he smote the one on the head, and beat out his brains, wherewith the other began to awake, but in his awaking he stroke him so full on the breast, that his pierced his heart, and he lay sprawling in his own blood. Ornatus found a Glass, and into the chamber entered, where Artesia, perceiving love to

rebell

reveal what he had done: then returning, he bethought himself of the Keyes, which he had thrown into the Vault with their bodies, devising how to get out without suspicion of the deed he had done; but he was enforced to take the Wall, and by main force wring asunder the Locks.

His mind being extreamly affected with these cares, he entred into Artesia's Chamber, to see whether he had stirred her with the noise, or no: but he found in Bed and fast asleep, with the light still burning by her bed side, her breast uncovered down to her waste, and nothing to shroud her from his perfect view, but the single sheet, that lay carelessly cast over her tender body; her arms cast to either side of the bed, and her head leaning on the side, all so sweet an object, as would have ravished a thousand beholders.

Ornatus heart was so ravished to behold this sweet sight, that the resemblance thereof had banished all remembrance of his troubles past, and affected his heart with incomparable delight, that he stood like one amazed to behold her sweet beauties, and to take a further view of those her perfections so amiably laid forth. Artesia suddenly awaking, made to see him so near, yet therewith more comforted than dismayed. She caught the cloaths and covered her self, whilst he took his hand in hers, desired pardon for his boldness: but she viewed him well, beheld his pale and ghastly countenance, which drave her into fear, and telling her self privately in her bed, caught him in her arms, asking what killed him to look so pale? My dear Artesia (quoth he) since I parted from you, I have endured great danger, and past through a hell of calamities to day now I feel not; with that he let his head fall into her sweet bosome, and there made the period of his speech, feeling her tender heart pant with the motions of her troubled spirit: in which place he rested it a good while, whilst she with her soft hand curled his hair, and with sweet kisses meeted his lips; using many other familiarities and sweet favours, proceeding from the Keyes of kind love; wherewith Ornatus was so ravished, that he not only took heavenly contentment therein, but also desired a further contentment of her love, which he never before asked, nor thought she would grant; but being heartned by the assurance of her love, he used a more familiar behaviour, which she permitted. But as fast growing more bold,

hold than ſhe thought convenient for her modeſty to permit, with a kind and lovely behaviour, ſhe both blamed and hindred him: But the motions of affection ſo far prevailed with them both, that he deſired, and ſhe inwardly yielded, though outwardly ſhe refuſed. But his behaviour, her own love, the preſent occaſion, ſo fit opportunity, their hearts unity, and other ſweet inticements ſo far prevailed, that ſhe yielded up her unſpotted body, and pure chaſtity to his poſſeſſion, giving up the intereſt of her heart, love, and body, to him that purſued the poſſeſſion of thoſe riches with earneſtneſs. Sometimes blushing, ſometimes ſhrieking, and yet yielding; denying, and yet granting, willing and unwilling: yet at laſt, ſhe gave that ſhe could not recall, and let him poſſeſs her ſpotleſs Virginity. Which being paſt, her heart panted with the motion, and ſhe felt her ſences fail; a little repenting, yet not altogether ſorry; ſighing for ſadneſs, and yet not ſad at all.

Whileſt he bathed himſelf in that Haven of bliſs, paſſing the reſt of that night in ſuch unſpeakable pleaſure, as cannot be deſcribed. Early the next morning he aroſe, taking his farewel with ſuch a ſweet adieu, leaving Artesia ſad for ſorrow, and lamenting his abſence; but yet with earneſt and hearty prayers invocating his happy ſucceſs, bathing her heart with like warm teares; thinking ſhe had been too prodigal of her favours to him, and yet eſteeming him worthy of a thouſand times greater gifts, if ſhe had it in her poſſeſſion; with repentance rejoycing, though ſeeming her ſelf metamorphoſed, and other than ſhe was wont to be; being glad ſhe had no company to converſe withal, leſt her guile ſhould make her bluſh, and ſo bewray her fault. And when Phœbus began to lighten the Chamber with his ſplendor, ſhe hid her ſelf within the bed, as if the day light had accuſed her of that ſhe had done in the dark.

Ornatus being come to the Camp, found out Phylaſtes, and brought him to Artesia's Lodging, by the way inſtructing him how to order his buſineſs when Leon ſhould come. Where being entred, Phylaſtes having ſaluted Artesia, and a while converſt about their affairs, they changed their habits: Ornatus with many a ſorrowful ſigh, taking his leave of her, while his heart bled warm drops of blood.

Ornatus

Ornatus having taken leave of Artesia, went to the Camp; where he ordered his affairs so discreetly, that he was taken by all to be Phylastes. News came that the Armenians were landed, and had brought their forces within 2 days march of Thæon Camp: then the King assembled all the chief Leaders together, to appoint every man his charge, and consult what to do.

Ornatus in Phylastes sleed, had under his charge four thousand men, whom by his own seeking, he was appointed to convey into a Wood, that lay fit to offend the Enemy; and the rest appointed to other places, that seemed for most advantage.

Ornatus having his Souldiers alone, thought it time to execute what he intended; and therefore called to him such as were Captains and chief under him, uttering these speeches:

Fellow Souldiers, I would willingly utter my mind, which is troubled in some sort with the remembrance of the injuries Allinius hath cruelly endured, against whom now we arm our selves to fight; wherein, in my mind, we deal unjustly: for he was never Traytor to his Country, nor now seeketh to disturb the Land with oppression, but only to claim his own inheritance and liberty, which our selves do permit: therefore I think it best before we draw our weapons, to consider against whom we draw them, and whom we offend; one that loveth us, his Country, and people, and would not willingly shed a drop of our blood.

Now if I could find a remedy for all this, which standeth with equity, would you follow my directions? With that, they all at once said, they would be ruled by him. Then he said, Thæon that is now our King, destroyed all the late Kings Family, and such as were in any degree near unto him in blood; the last of whom is Allinius, whose utter ruine he now seeketh, not by justice, but that neither he nor any of his Progeny should hinder his succession: therefore if you would follow my counsel, when the Armies are met, let us not offer to offend the Armenians, but keep our selves from fight, until Lenon all ignited therewith, and fearing the people revolt, will peradventure yield to perform the Articles the Armenians demand, and by this means we shall restore Timo to his right, save the effusion of blood, and not wrong our Reputation. The people hearing his speech generally gave their consent: crying Phylastes, Phylastes. Which

that Ornatus bestowed the gold among them that Lenon had before given him, which prevailed with the multitude exceedingly.

Ornatus having effected this according to his desire, went to the Armenian Camp, desiring to speak with Allimus their General, to whom he declared what he intended in his behalf, not discovering himself to any other than Phylastes, for which Allimus yielded him hearty thanks.

Whilest Ornatus was absent, a Captain named Ordonus, drawn by desire of reward, and above the rest favouring Lenons party, stole from the Camp, and coming to the Prince, told him what he had heard: which when Lenon understood, he thought it not best to tend for him by command, but among the rest to summon him to Council, and to that effect sent a Herald. Ornatus being returned had knowledge of the general Assembly and willingly went, little suspecting what Lenon intended, and being entred the Camp, he was in the presence of Lenon and all the Nobles, arrested by a Herald for High Treason. Ornatus then thought his design was discovered, demanding what they could lay to his Charge: and thereupon Ornatus before them all declared what he had done, which he could not deny; upon which accusation he was sent to the Court and imprisoned.

CHAP. XV.

How Ornatus was delivered out of Prison, and carried Artesia from the Court: How in a single Duel he overcame Lenon, and caused Theous flight: And how Artesia fled to Adellena's house.

THe news of Ornatus imprisonment was soon blazed throughout the whole Camp, Court, and Country, which at last came to Artesia's hearing, who with extream lamentations bewailed his misfortune: But Phylastes coming unto her, comforted her all that he could, promising to set Ornatus at liberty, if, quoth he, at Lenons next coming you will request his Signet for your safety and deliverance.

The

The next day the Armies were to meet, therefore that night Lenon visited Artesia, and finding her very sad, demanded the cause thereof. My Lord, said she, how can I be otherwise than sad, when I am ready every hour to fall into more misery, not knowing whether your life may be endangered by these Wars, and I subject to more misfortune? therefore in lieu you love me, grant me your Signet to be my warrant and priviledge against any injury that may be offered me; with that she kist him, which she had never before done, not drawn by any good will, but with desire to help Ornatus, Lenons heart was so overcome, that presently he gave her the same, staying some time in her company to entreat her favourable opinion of him. He was no sooner gone, but Phylastes taking the Ring of Artesia, went unto the place where Ornatus was, and coming to the Gaoler, told him he must bail her up Phylastes to his custody, shewing him the Princes Signet as his warrant.

The Gaoler seing the same, and knowing that the pilgrim was in great trust with Lenon, made no doubt, but presently deliveres Ornatus to him, both departing to Artesia, who seing her beloved so fortunately delivered, shew tears of joy for his escape.

After salutations in the kindest sort that, Ornatus perceived what he intended, and how he was betrayed by Ornatus, Phylastes then counselled Ornatus that night to convey Artesia from thence unto some place of better security, who sometime thought to carry her to Adellena's house, but he fearing Lenon would mistrust that place: At last he concluded to convey her to her Fathers Castle, which was still kept for her by some of Arbolus Servants: Both Artesia and Phylastes liked this well, therefore leaving the Court, they departed thither; but she being not wonted to travel, could hardly hold out, but by their help they arrived there about midnight, and knocking awaked the Porter, who looking over the Battlements, demanded who was there at that unseasonable time? My friend, quoth Ornatus, it is Artesia, that cometh in time of her most need for harbour in this place. The Porter viewing her well by the bright light of Cinthia, knew her, and so opened the Gate.

Ornatus was glad of this happy escape, but perceiving sad that he could not still be safe after against Lenon, in case he

must by force be sent from his refuge, saying, O that I were but present to aid my Father against his enemy. Artesia hearing his speeches, said: Good Ornatus, do not again hazard your person as you lately did, for had not Fortune and Phylastes wisdom assisted us, both your life and with it mine, had been cast away. My dear Lady, quoth he, that misfortune hath taught me wisdom, and therefore I beseech you let me once again go to aid my Father, which I will now do without danger, for that I will make none privy to what I intend, nor attempt more than I am able to perform. Artesia seeing how fully he was bent to go, preferred his will before her own desire, knowing it her duty not to contradict, but to counsel him, and therefore said:

Dear Ornatus, my duty binds me to consent, but my love willeth me to deny, fear of mishap maketh me unwilling for fear your person should be endangered, therefore play take Phylastes along with you, and leave me to the custody of my Servants, of whose fidelity I am assured of.

Ornatus hearing these speeches to proceed from her tender heart, desired her to be contented, telling her Phylastes should go with him, whereupon they both armed themselves, and riding towards the Camp they beheld the Armies joyned together in cruel conflict, which caused them to stand a while looking on them, to see which would obtain victory; and in the end they beheld the Armenians to retire, and Theon and Lenon in the midst of them, making an exceeding slaughter. This set Ornatus heart on fire, that rushing in among the thickest of his Country men, not spilling one drop of their blood, he came to Lenon, after whom Phylastes followed. The Souldiers seeing these two Knights offend none, marvelled what they should be.

By this time Ornatus was come to the place where Lenon was, who even just at that time had found Allinus, between whom many wounds and sharp blows were given; but Allinus had the worst by reason of his age. Ornatus knowing his Father by his Armour, stept between them with his Sword drawn, saying: Stay thy hand, and let age go free; come if thou dare it and cope with me, who am come to challenge thee before both the Armies, therefore as thou art a Kings Son, a Knight, and honoured Armes, give order by a Herald to stay the fury of the

the Battle, till thou and I have tried our valours, otherwise this Knight and I have vowed to haunt thee from place to place to work thy down all.

Lenon hearing his Challenge, said: If thou art a Knight and a Gentleman as I am, and canst shew wherein I have wronged thee, I will answer thee, otherwise know that I do scorn thee, although I know my self of sufficient strength to abate thy haughty presumption, were it never so great: With that two Heralds were sent from either General to part the Souldiers; which being done, Ornatus before the whole Assembly said:

Lenon, First, I say I am a Gentleman as absolute and as good as thy self; Prince I am none, neither art thou but by Usurpation: I come as Artesia's Champion, to tax thee of disloyalty; I challenge thee for doing injustice against Allinus; I challenge thee as a conspirator of Arbastus death; I challenge thee for the heavy Taxes laid upon the free Subjects of the Land; and lastly for detaining Ornatus a Prisoner. Therefore if thou darest answer me, I am here ready for thee; if not I will declare thee a Coward, and unworthy to handle Weapons.

I value not a Strangers accusation, quoth Lenon, and being judge my self, will not by thee be adjudged; but for thy proud Challenge I will answer it, as little regarding what thou canst do: whereupon they assailed each other with their Swords drawn, continuing a terrible fight for the space of half an hour. Ornatus calling to remembrance the injuries he had received, and that Lenon and none else could dispossess him of Artesia's love, and many other wrongs he had done him and his Parents, thought now to revenge them all, and dispossess Thæon of the Crown, that Ornatus into his adversary such a violent blow where his Armour was broken, that Lenon fell senseless upon his Horse.

Thæon perceiving this, came rushing in with his Guard to save his Sons life, which had he not done, Ornatus had severed his head from his body; whereupon both the Armies joyned Battle again, the Armenians with fresh courage assailing their enemies, whose hearts began to fail, seeing Lenon so near death, which made such a confusion amongst them, that they were ready to flie or yield to Allinus, rather than fight it out,

out, that on a sudden the Armenians had slain an infinite number of them, and all the earth was dyed into a purple colour with their blood.

Ornatus was vexed to see his Countreymen so slaughtered, that he intreated Phylathes to perswade the Souldiers to give over, riding between the two Armies with a Herald, wanting his Sword above his head, desiring them to stay their fury for a little space: Long it was before they would desist; but at length by the sound of the Drums and Trumpets, having called back the Armenians, Ornatus placing himself in the midst of his Countreymen, that a number might hear him, said:

Renowned People of Phrygia, hear my speech that am ashamed to see so much of our blood shed, the effusion whereof I seek by all means to stop, having as you see for the love I bear you not lifted up my hand against any of you save only Lenon; the cause that urged me to challenge him is the manifest wrong he and his Father hath done to the Country and all the Nobility, for the true testimony whereof, let every one inwardly examine his own Conscience, and they will not deny my words, but find themselves exceedingly grieved with his oppression: Do you not see what destruction he hath wrought upon this Land? Are not almost all the Nobility slain and destroyed? Are not your Liberties, Goods, and Friends taken from you? Is not the whole Land in an uproar, and every one driven from his quiet at home to venture his life in the Field? and all this for satisfaction of his will and self command, not grounded upon Law or Justice? Examine your Consciences; was he your lawful King? Did not he murther your Anointed Sovereign to make you his Vassals? Again, doth Allinus seek to do his Country wrong? Doth he come to oppress you? doth he come to take away your Liberties, or lay heavy taxes upon you? No, he only is come to demand his inheritance unjustly taken from him, and to punish the murtherers of his Royal Ancestors: He comes constrained by grief, not to live as a banished man, being constrained to live in obscurity to see the Usurpers ambition; then I beseech you dear Country men consider well what you do; whom do you offend? a Stranger; whom do you resist? a dear friend, who loveth you all, whose condition strangers pity; but his own Countreymens hearts are armed against him, repaying his cruelty for his love, and oppose him endeavouring

endeavouring to regain his right; I could alledge so many reasons to dissuade you from adhering to this Tyrant, as would ask a tedious recital; but I know you have understanding to conceive the right, your hearts merciful to pity him, and your minds apt to do Justice: Then relent him, discharge your minds of care, and disburden your selves of his oppression; I stand here as an Advocate to plead for Allius right, that hath suffered too much wrong: I stand here as Artesia Champion right is imprisoned by Lenon, and withheld from her liberty by him: I stand here to entreat you to save your own lives, to preserve your Liberties, to execute Justice, and to do Allius right.

Thus when he had ended these speeches, he said further; I beseech you, quoth he, lay aside your Armes taken up in defence of wrong, and turn your hearts to pity innocency, whereby you shall save many of your lives, shew your selves men that are ruled by wisdom, not by Rage, and purchase Liberty, Freedom, and Peace for ever.

Now you that bear the true hearts of Phrygians follow me, and forsake that Usurper, and stay that ruine and destruction which may ensue, and let the lawful heir enjoy the possession of the Crown.

The peoples hearts were so altered with his speeches, that many came running to him, crying out, Allius, Allius, and whole that stayed behind were in a doubt what to do; whereupon Duke Turnus commanded his Forces to follow him, who making use of this opportunity withdrew them from the fight of the Camps, letting them offend or defend none.

Thaon had no sooner conveyed his Son to his Tent, and with much ado recovered him to his Senses, but there came a Messenger posting from the Court, with news that Phylaster was two dayes escaped out of Prison, and then another came and brought tidings that Artesia was fled with the Pilgrim, which when Lenon heard, he fell into such a passion, that his wounds bled afresh; and more to fill up both their hearts with sorrow, another came with all speed, saying: Flye Thaon flye, we are betrayed to the Enemy, the Leaders, Captains, and Souldiers are revolted, and the Rebels are near at hand to surprize thee; flye, flye to save thy life, for all thy Subjects have left thee, and now refuse thy Government. Thaon was so

so amazed and terrified with fear, that not regarding his Sons life he fled to save himself, every one (saving those that fled with Theon) running to their revolted fellows to save themselves.

This news was soon brought to Allinus, who hearing the same, and being past fear of Theons rage, sent a herald unto Eunus to know whether he was his Enemy or his Friend; whereupon the Duke presently discharged his Souldiers, and with great joy came to Allinus, whom he most kindly saluted; and there being assembled the chief Peers and Nobles of the Land, Allinus said:

My noble Lords, since Theon and Lenon are fled, and none left but your honours in place of Justice, with right and equity to minister the same to such as have received wrong, I as one that have suffered the greatest loss, commit my cause to your judicious consideration: You know what loss I have endured through his malice for my endeavouring to set Persia at liberty, that was by Lenon imprisoned and ignobly used, requesting nothing of you but that which by right is mine by inheritance.

The Nobles generally consented that he should enjoy his former possessions, and that all his Losses should be paid out of the Kings Exchequer. Then Ormatus standing by, said as followeth:

Most noble Peers you stand here debating matters, whilest the cause of your woe is yet living, and far enough from yielding to what you grant, who now peradventure is muttering up new Forces to frustrate what you intend; which to prevent, give me your consents to pursue him, and he being once taken, then may you without controul establish him, or those as you please.

To this all the Peers gave consent, and Ormatus with three thousand Horsemen followed Theon, who took the Green Forrests with five hundred men, who won by great rewards continued firm: But hearing of the Princes approach in the night he fled with a hundred of his Friends and Followers towards Thalus Castle, where he thought to live secure and unknown, for that he thought his Enemies would least of all suspect that place: He arrives there at midnight, and knocking at the Gate was denied entrance, which made him

him attempt to open them by force, and being entred, he caused the same to be shut fast after him.

Artesia's Servants knowing him, ran several ways for to hide themselves, and one came running into her Chamber to tell her what had befalln: But she not hearing of her beloved victory, and the dangs overthrow, wringing her hands made great lamentation, saying: Cruel Fate hath my dear Lover left me in this sad condition, from whom I never shall receive comfort more, for I am not like to be long free: for if I am, sure the King seeks after me; O that I had the enjoyment of my dear Lover, I should then think my self happy in misery: but I fear they will privately murther him, and never let me know of it. Never was poor maid brought to such misery, or ever thus crost in her desire.

As she was continuing these lamentations, the same Servant, whose name was Thirsis, came running in again, saying: Dear Mistress, I have found a means for your escape from hence presently, if you will attempt it. Never tell me, quoth she, what it is, but be thou my Guide, and I will follow thee. Then said he fear nothing: and taking her by the hand, he led her out of that Room into a dark entry, until he came to a Postern Gate, which he opened and shut again, desiring her to be comforted; whereupon she desired him to direct her to Adellena's house, where being come, they knocked, which caused the Porter to demand who was there? It is I, said Artesia, good Anna let me in, whereupon she let her in, and conducted her to her Mistress Chamber, who espying her, was so surprized, that with tears of joy she embraced her, saying: Welcome my dear Artesia, I was afraid I should never have seen you again. Indeed, replied she, I have been long absent from you, yet not for ill; but I have reason of acquaintance to tell her, which as yet I will forbear to declare, until I have refreshed my self; for care, fear, and travel, hath made me exceeding weary. Then Adellena brought her into a sweet and pleasant Bed, where she laid her down to rest.

CHAP. XVI.

How Ornatus forsooke Thæon in Arbastus Castle, who was slain by one of his own Servants.

By this time Ornatus had information that Thæon was entred the Græn Fortress, which caused him to beset the same round with Horsemen, who took certain of the Kings party and brought them before Ornatus, who declared that he was fled to Arbastus Castle, which when he heard, without delay he rose thither, fearing lest Thæon getting in, and finding Artesia would do her some injury. He was no sooner come, but he found it so; for he saw none of Artesia's Servants whom he left there to keep it, nor could not get entrance of any that he saw, which did so much disquiet his heart, that he could not tell what to do, thinking it best to intreat Thæon kindly, lest he should seek revenge against Artesia, though she were innocent, and not to be blamed for any thing; and such a multitude of contrarious fancies arose in his fancy, that he seemed metamorphosed therewith, whereupon he summoned the King from the Walls, who appearing thereon, demanded what he would have? I would have you yield said Ornatus? Suppose I should yield, replied Thæon, how would you use me? Like a King, said Ornatus, I have found said Thæon, such small cause to trust you, that it were foolishness to put my self into your mercy, therefore I will keep my self where I am, not doubting ere long to have so many friends, as shall not only chase ye before these Walls, but forth of the Country.

Ornatus was much troubled in mind to think what was become of Artesia, marvelling that he spake not of her, nor see any of her Servants that might tell him how she fared: But seeing his fair words would not prevail, he said: Thæon, since thou refusest the courteous proffer I make thee, know that my mind is altered, and since thou wilt not fairly yield, I will inforce thee to submit thy self to my mercy, or abide my rigour, for not all the friends thou hast shall shelter thee from my revenge, unless thou wilt surrender up Artesia, who is in safety within that Castle.

Artesia (quoth Thron) had I her in my custody, I would be revenged on her, because thou lovest her well; but she is far enough from me, therefore thou requirest her at my hands in vain, who would as readily bel ver her to thee as thou couldest ask. I do so little esteem her: But for my self, it shall never be said my mind will stoop to base submission, nor that a King yielded to his Vassal: Dost thou think that a Royal mind can put on so degenerate a habit? No, I tell thee, whosoever thou art, I had rather die than submit. But be thou advised what thou dost, nor stay long before these Walls, for there are so many wheeling their Swords and putting on Armour in my defence, that before the Sun rises will leave thee from hence.

Ornatus heart could not endure these braves, and being withal vexed for fear that Artesia should sustain any wrong, he thought speedily to work revenge, which by Phylastes counsel he remitted till night, that then unawares they might by some means get entrance into the Castle, and so surprize them; therefore thinking to walk alone by himself, to breath forth in sighs some part of his fear that possest his heart, and withal determining to view the Castle how he might with conveniency get into the same without destroying it, because it belonged to his beloved, he espyed the Postern-gate, whereat thrusting, presently it flew open, which Lord Thron nor none of his followers knew of: Ornatus was glad he had found such a means to accomplish his will, and putting the same to again, came to Phylastes and told him thereof. Then both of them presently agreed to enter that way, and surprize them, conveying a hundred of the best Souldiers secretly under the Wall unto that Postern, and placed the rest in the open view of the Castle, as if none of them had been wanting.

Ornatus and Phylastes entred first, and the rest followed, who passing along by the waste Rooms, at last came unto the place where they had left Artesia, but found her not; and so fortunate success had they in their attempt, that Ornatus coming behind Thron smote him on the shoulder with his hand, before he had any knowledge of his approach: Thron therewith starting and looking back was amazed, crying out to those that were about him to defend themselves, who, trem-

or they drew their Swords; but Ornatus grasping Thæon said: How now Villayning Lying, where are those mighty forces should drive me hence? Will you yet yield, or stand to the trial by fight? I yield quoth Thæon, but much against my will, for had friends proved faithful, I had not been left thus; but since Fortune so much favours thee as to make me thy Prisoner, use me well, for that I am a King, and to none but thy self am Captive. Tell me, said Ornatus, what is become of Artesia, whom not long since I left here? I saw her not (quoth Thæon) nor know I where she is, only I found certain Servants in this place, whom I put to death lest they should discover my being here. Tyrant (quoth Ornatus) thinkest thou that their deaths shall go unrevenged? Couldst thou be so cruel as to murther those that were innocent, with whom perhaps thou hast murthered Artesia?

Why what art thou, quoth Thæon, that usest such unbecoming words to a King? And why makest thou such enquiry after Artesia? Suppose I have slain her that was the cause of all this woe, what then? It had been good she had never been born, for she alone hath been the only cause of all these molestations.

Art thou a King, quoth Ornatus, and beareſt so base a mind as to slander true vertue? No, thou art a Villain, a Murtherer, a Traytor, an Usurper, and a most wicked and cruel Homicide: But because thou wouldst know whom I am; I tell thee, That I have more interest to the Crown than thou, my name is Ornatus, and I am thine enemy; therefore lay hold on him, such as are my friends, for he shall be tried as a Traytor before the Peers of the Land. He had no sooner ended his words, but Thæons own Servants apprehended him, and one among the rest, thinking to gain reward, having his Sword in his hand ready drawn, whilest Ornatus turned about to confer with Physitians, suddenly thrust the same thorow Thæons body, who yielding forth a grievous groan, gave up the Ghost. Ornatus looking behind him, asked who did that deed? Whereupon the Murtherer drew back, fearing to come before him till he was compelled, to whom Ornatus said:

What art thou that hast done this deed? Art thou not one of his Servants? hast thou not been maintained by him? Did he not trust thee with his life? Was he not thy King? How durst thou presume to lift up thy hand against thy Soveraign?

By

My Lord, said he, I did mistake your words, and hope to preserve my own life made me do it, which I thought would have pleased you. I am not, quoth he, sorry he is dead, but because thou slewest him, whom in all duty thou should have defended, for which thou shalt die a miserable death. Then Ornatus commanded that he should be torn in pieces with Horses, which before he departed from the Castle he saw put in execution.

CHAP. XVII.

How Ornatus was chosen King: How he departed unknown in search of Artesia; how Lenon sought again to betray him, but was disappointed: How he was banished; Floretus pardoned, and Ornatus and Artesia Royally married.

THe King being dead, Ornatus with Phylaster returned to the Court, where all the Peers were assembled, who before his coming had by a voluntary Spellenger understood the manner of Throns death, the care whereof was already past, because few or none loved him; and now their care was whom to chuse for their King; yet first they welcomed Ornatus, none knowing him or conceiving what he was, who now seeing there was no further occasion to conceal himself, humbling himself before Allinus said:

My Renowned Lord, the cause I have so long concealed my self, hath been for fear of the Kings cruelty and Lenons envy, who both would have endangered me, but now being void of that misdoubt, your poor Son Ornatus submitted himself, humbly craving pardon for my neglect of duty; with that he imarmed his head, and his Father knowing him embraced him shedding tears of joy for his safety, whom he thought had been long since dead.

Duke Tomas and the rest rejoyced to see him, with kind embraces expressing their joy, entring into admiration of his noble Chivalry.

Allinus beholding Ornatus, and how valiantly he had behaved himself rejoyced exceedingly: The commons claps their hands for

for to see Phylastes, whom they thought had been murthered by Lenon, and the Lords spake in praise of Ornatus: When Duke Turnus standing up, said:

My Lords, we need not now defer giving Allinus his right because there is none to contradict what we establish. Besides we being all now assembled together, and our late usurping King dead, there can be no fitter time to chuse a new King; and such a one, as by right of blood and our general consents may rule us. Thæon you all know was no way interessed to the Crown, but by usurpation, and hath rooted out all that he knew to have any title or interest in our late Kings blood; of which house Allinus issue is the last, by marriage of the Lady Aura, sister unto our late King: therefore the right being in him, if there be any man in this Assembly that can contradict what I have said, let him speak, and then sit down again. Upon his speeches the Nobles consulted, the people conferred, and at last the common Souldiers cried out, Let Ornatus be our King, Ornatus is our King. The Nobles likewise give consent to that the multitude liked, and Ornatus was chosen King, whom they would have Crowned, but at his request, they deferred the day of his Coronation for a month, in the mean time esteeming him as their King: and that day setled him in possession with great state.

All business for that day being ended, the Armenians richly rewarded and feasted, were ready to return: Allinus in quiet, but for want of his Lady, and all things in good order: Ornatus being alone by himself, endured much disquiet for Artesia, marvelling what was become of her, sometimes thinking she was slain by Thæon, and then supposing she was escaped out at the Postern-gate which he found open: that in these contrarieties of doubts, he continued a time; sometime despairing, and then again feeding himself with hope.

After Artesia had rested her self, and regained some part of her sleep she had lost that night, though but with broken slumbers, she began to declare to Adellena what miseries she had endured, and troubles she had past, since she was by Lenon carried from her house: how she met with Ornatus again, and every thing that had happened: with the cause of her flight at that instant. But Adellena, said she, I fear me I shall never see him again: for had he not been taken, and his

father overthrown, Theon could not have had so much leisure as to come and surprize me there, but the Heavens granted me a fortunate escape. And if I could be so happy, as to hear that Ornatus were in safety, though he had not that success he aimed at, my heart would be at rest, which is now grievously tormented.

His adventurous valiant heart could not be withdrawn by perswasion to leave to aid his Father; but notwithstanding infinite perils hung over his head, yet to shew the duty of a loving Son, and the mind of a vertuous Gentleman, he would not be still to hazard his person, which now I fear me is fallen into the hands of his enemies. But yet I hope Phylotes will by his good and friendly counsel, be a means to keep him from danger. Many other speeches Artesia used and Adellena as many on the contrary part, to perswade her that Ornatus was in safety: I have sent one of my servants to learn the truth of all that is happened, who I know will shortly return. Which fell out even as she had told, for the servant returned, bringing news of Lenous death, acted by a strange Knight, and how Theon being fled, was surprized by the strange Knight, in Arbalus Castle, and slain by one of his own servants; which Knight was now known to be Ornatus, who was elected King by the Peers, but he had deferred the day of his Coronation by reason of some special grief that troubled him. Artesia's heart was revived with this news, knowing the grief Ornatus endured was for her absence, that presently she resolved to send him word of her safety; and wrote a letter, the contents whereof were these.

My Dear Ornatus.

NO News could have come more welcome to me than your safety, and nothing more unwelcome than to hear of your heaviness; which I would intreat you to cease, for that I am in safety in Adellena's house, being by one of my Servants the same night the King took my Castle, conveyed through a Postern-gate, and in safety brought hither, where I hope ere long to see you, which will replenish my Soul with exceeding comfort; for on your safety my life and felicity dependeth.

Yours for ever,

ARTESIA.

Having writ this Letter, she gave it to Thrisus, willing him to deliver the same to Ornatus.

The Destinies do allot many to exceeding misfortunes, some men are of that dishonourable and unmanly disposition, that they account all means to attain their desires Lawful, not regarding the shame and danger which follows, of which Nature was Lenon, who being conveyed by some of his familiars from the Camp, soon recovered, and disguised himself that he might not be known, having no other means to preserve his life left, therefore he concealed himself and followed Ornatus unknown, with an intent if he could get him in a private place to murther him: He saw his Father slain before his face, and intermingling himself amongst the multitude was taken for a Common Souldier.

Now Ornatus being returned to the Court, Lenon was then compelled for fear of suspicion to leave following him, lurking sometimes in one place and sometimes in another, listning after Artesia, whose escape from the Castle he was assured of; and then as Thrisus came out of Adellena's house, Lenon espied him, who knowing him to be one of Artesia's Servants, suspected Artesia to be there, to whom he came, saying: My friend well met, if I be not mistaken you are one of Artesia's Servants, for whom I have a Letter from her dear Ornatus. Indeed, quoth Thrisus, I serve Artesia, and am now going to Ornatus with a Letter from her. Lenon hearing his speech, presently drew his Dagger, and stab'd him to the heart, and when he had done read the Letter, imagining how he might be revenged on Ornatus, and afterward possess Artesia; and because he thought delay might hinder his intent, he did write a Letter unto him, the contents were these.

Dear ORNATUS,

THE News of your happy Victory and conquest of your Enemies is come to my knowledge, than which nothing could have been more welcome unto me: I hear that much heaviness possesseth you for my absence, but I am in safety at the Lodge with Adellena near my Castle, where I desire you to come to me to morrow at night; in the mean time I will remit the manner of my escape, and manifestation of my love, until the happy time that I see you.

Yours, in all Love, Artesia.

When

When he had done this, he went to the Court, and carried the Writers in cunning, that he was admitted to Phylades presence, to whom he delivered the Letter: for Ornatus himself, being exceedingly troubled in mind, how left the Court, and was overtaken in by two or three in his company in search of Artesia, and having left Phylades to answer those as should come with any request to him. Phylades being taken of all (but his Attendants) for Ornatus received the Letter and rewarded the Messenger, promising to meet Artesia there at the time appointed. Now Leon had a Kinsman named Lacertus, to whom he declared his intention of revenge against Ornatus, who bowed to all him courtesie.

In this time Phylades had sent out a Messenger to seek Ornatus, whom having found he declared his change, only mistaking the place; for whereas he should by his direction have said at the Lodge, mistaking his words, he said at Allellens house; which caused him presently to have thither, and Leon to further his intent penned an answer to the Letter which he had taken from him, the Contents whereof were as follow.

To my most dear and well beloved Artesia.

Worthy Lady,

I have received your Letter by your servant, whom I have employed about a matter of great importance, that now by no means could I come unto you, which I know you will take in good part, for that I am also overcome with desire of your company, but that I am employed about a matter of great importance, that now by no means could I come unto you, which I know you will take in good part, for that I am also overcome with desire of your company, wherein my chiefest felicity dependeth, therefore omitting [illegible] further recital of my joy for your safety, which this Paper cannot express, be confident I will meet you soon, where my Servant will [illegible] you whose speeding I refer you in [illegible]

[illegible] thing else, what I have given him in command [illegible]

[illegible]

With this Letter Lenon went to Adellena's house, and deliuered the same to Artesia, who reading it, and not knowing Ornatus hand, nothing suspected it, but believed it came from him, and determined to go with the Messenger to meet him: whilest she was making preparation to go with Lenon, Adellena's Maid came running in, telling her that Ornatus was at the Gate to speak with her from Orsames, whereupon Artesia willed her to bring him in, to whom he came, and delivered a Letter from Ornatus already, and therefore if you have any further message from him tell me. Ornatus thought it was sent by Phylastes, but not knowing the Messenger marvelled thereat, saying: I cannot believe it came from him, for it is not yet an hour since he knew of your being here, and (looking upon the Letter) said, it came not from him, for it is not his hand: My friend, quoth he, to Lenon, when did he give thee this Letter? Yesterday, said Lenon. Thou lyest, replied Ornatus, therefore, said he to Artesia, believe him not, for he is come with some evil intent, commanding those as were with him to lay hands on him, who presently apprehended him, and pulling of his hat and further disguise that he wore, knew him, whom all were afraid to touch, because they thought he had been dead.

Ornatus seeing Artesia in an exceeding fright, discovered himself and with great joy embraced her, desiring her not to be dismaid. Artesia then knowing him, fell down in a swoon, twining her armes about his manly body, to whom he said; Fear not my dear Artesia, for be it himself or his Ghost he shall not escape my hands: Lenon, said Ornatus, thou most discourteous and cowardly villain, cannot thou not be contented to live in quiet, having once escaped my fury, but thou must by further Plots and Treacheries seek to betray this Lady that did never injure thee? How often hast thou interrupted her quiet, and from content brought her into misery? And knowing that she could not like thee, yet thou hast been so impudent as never to desist thy suit, but to obtain thy desire, first deprived her of liberty, banished me in the disguise of Silvia, and afterwards sought to betray my Fathers life; and not satisfied with all these, like a Cowardly miscreant seeks to betray her, and for all thou hast beheld thy Masters downfal and meritorious punishment, yet seekest to work her

her Tragedy by some wicked means, not yet revealed; for all which thou shalt at my pleasure receive condign punishment.

Lenon seeing himself discovered, grew desperate, and scorned to be rebuked at his hands, whom he still counted his inferiour; but most of all grieved that it was such an enemy as he that had so long hindred his love, said:

Ornatus, I think thou hast either forgotten thy self, or else what I am, that at thy pleasure reviledst me with such uncivil and reproachful terms: Am I not thy better, and one that not long since might have commanded thee? Is thy mind so elevated, that thou wilt not acknowledge it? Thou makest vaunt of thy Mirror, when thou mightst rather with shame keep thy self silent, and with sorrow repent that thou hast sought the death of thy Lawful King, being but a Usurper to the Kingdom.

As he was about to speak further, Ornatus interrupted him saying:

Hold thy peace, and do not stir my mind to more sharp revenge by thy opprobrious reply, for I seem to hear that therefore give over, lest I punish that Unreasonable Tongue of thine for uttering those words in defence of vice. Quite, said Lenon, thou wilt not let me speak in defence of my self, let me be conveyed from thy presence, for thy sight is odious to me, as mine to thee.

Whilst they continued in Adalens house, a Messenger came running in breathless, uttering these speeches:

Sir, I come by Ornatus, I bring thee a Message of much importance: Yesterday there came a Messenger came to the Court, and brought a Letter in Artesia's name to Phylander, who presently sent one a Messenger to give you knowledge thereof: but I fearing he returned not, went himself, with some company to the place appointed, and nothing he found not there, but a crew of Pirates, amongst whom Lucerne was chief, who set upon him and his followers, thinking it had been you, having so many above the small number that were with Phylander, that they had slain most of them that were with him; and himself not able to withstand such a multitude, had received many grievous wounds, and had been certainly slain, had he not been relieved by providence: but it happened thus, that

that Duke Turnus was going from the Court to his own House, who by great fortune hearing the noise, with his men hasted thither, and having knowledge of what was done, set upon Lucernus, whom they soon vanquished, and having slain many of his Countreymen, they carried Ormanus such as were alive prisoners to the Court, and with them Phylanes in great danger of death.

Ormanus heart was exceedingly grieved to hear of his dear friends Phylanes hurt, but especially to think that he had not before attached Lucernus, which he was once in mind to do, and if he might have prevented all those mischiefs, but now all he could do was but little being come, charged Lenon to be bound hand and foot, and put into a strong place of the house, with some to watch him, lest he should do himself violence, whilst he and Artesia spent the evening in discoursing the manner of all their misfortunes, blaming themselves in each others love with Adellena, calling to remembrance the whole passages of their troubles, only procured by Lenon, the relation whereof making their present enjoyment more sweet and delicious.

Early the next morning, Ormanus putting on his Palmers weeds, covered Artesia's face with a Veil, and carrying Lenon with him bound, departed towards the Court, for the Peers of the Land were still convened together (among whom was Alinus, whose virtuous Lady hearing of his happy success against Turnus, was that morning newly arrived at the Court, being entertained by him with abundance of joy) and by that time the Assembly were seated, and called Lucernus before them, Ormanus with his company were also arrived, though unknown, and standing aside heard him confess how he was instigated to work revenge on Ormanus, and how Lenon was gone to betray Artesia. The whole Assembly marvelled when they heard him say, that Lenon perswaded him to it, and Alinus standing up, demanded how that could be, when he was dead. Lenon is not dead, replied Lucernus: whereupon Ormanus stepping in, shewed Lenon before him, and said: See Lords, this is the man that hath procured him to do all this mischief.

The Peers beholding him were amazed at his sight, but being assured it was he by the perfect knowledge they had of him,

him, Tyrus said, Lords, I once thought that I had the mind of a Gentleman, but I find now the meanness of that let them to such a base attempt, as to give Assistance to Ornatus, which he has almost perfected, and the fellow took upon of that pretended Lady, that had so long by their Artifice much wrong.

Allinus had not as yet heard of Ornatus's [illegible] contrary but that Phylaster was by, to be assisting to the of a most pretended and constant Lover, [illegible] nor the Lady Aura had not yet seen her son, whom she had heard of, that Allinus said, He must [illegible] Phylaster [illegible] Aura began [illegible] ing Lamentation, which Ornatus [illegible] and therefore pulling off his disguised habit, humbly himself before them upon his knee; Which his parents knew him, and with exceeding joy embraced him, shedding abundance of tears for his safety, with that Duke Tyrus and all the rest came to him, using such behaviour towards him as appertained unto a King, leading him into Chair of State, as unworthy said; My noble Lords, I thank you for honouring me with this exceeding Honour, and since your Lordships have made a free election of me to be your King, I accept of your honourable proffer, appointing this day for our Coronation, because I have now no further cause of care, nor reasons to defer the same: [illegible] thee, because we will see Justice executed upon those Traytors & Conspirators against our State and Person. The Nobles with most joyful hearts gave consent, and [illegible] reverencing him upon their knees; which done, Ornatus rising from his Imperial Seat, came to Artesia, taking her by the hand, and leading her up to the Throne seated between the Lords, placing the Crown upon her head, saying, [illegible] you have elected me your King, [illegible] with what I do, and let this be your Queen. Then he drew the Veil from Artesia's face, and she being [illegible] the admiration of all; who beholding the same, did her humble reverence, heartily rejoycing at her safety, observing how [illegible] happy in his pretended Choice, than in [illegible]

When this was done, the Nobility in most [illegible] yielding their [illegible] kindness, that their hearty [illegible]

the two Lovers, especially their Parents and the Duke, and his Lady, who with many embracings, which they thought they could not sufficiently express, rejoyced to see her in safety. And by that time Ornatus was seated again, and Artesia by him, Physitus hearing of his return, notwithstanding his many grievous wounds, made a hazard to come into their presence; whom he beheld both Crowned, which caused him immediately to fall upon his knee and do them reverence, whom they kindly embraced, rejoycing to see so much hopes of his recovery.

After they had spent some time in their unfeigned salutations, they willed Physitus to sit down amongst them; and Ornatus commanding Florerus and the rest to be sent for out of Prison, thus said:

Now there resteth nothing but to give Sentence against those that by Conspiracies have been Murtherers, which is so heinous a Fact, that it makes them odious to the World; in which offence Lenon, Lucertus and Florerus, are all guilty; therefore, said Ornatus to Lenon, declare what moved thee to commit so many grievous acts. Lenons heart was swell'd with vexation to see him Crowned, and Artesia chosen his Queen, that hanging down his head he gave no answer, but Lucertus humbled himself upon his knee, and craved pardon of his Majesty.

By this time Florerus was brought in, who looked with such a meager and pale countenance by reason of his long imprisonment, that Artesia wept to behold him, and could not chuse but run and embrace him, upon her knee intreating Ornatus to pardon the offence he had committed, which was against none but her self.

Ornatus seeing her kneel, suddenly caught her up, and imbracing him, caused his hands to be unbound, to whom he said; I not only with a willing heart pardon you, but also give unto you for ever all those possessions which belonged unto your Brother Arbatus, wishing that as you have found mercy from us here, that you would likewise endeavour to make your peace with Heaven, that you may find the like hereafter. Florerus, who expected nothing but death, was exceeding joyful, and humbly upon his knee yeelded many thanks. Ornatus then seating himself again, said:

Because

Because this Day is the first of Our Reign, which should begin with Mercy, and not with Rigour, there shall not one drop of Blood by Our Command be spilt; and therefore Lewen, though thou deservest no favour but a most miserable death, We freely pardon thee, but banish thee our Court, where on Pain of Death set not thy Foot, lest thy life Ransome thy presumption: as for you, Lucertus, We command you upon Our high Displeasure to depart this Land, from whence We banish you for ever, which Doom is too merciful.

This said, taking his Lady by the hand, he was by the Peers with a noise of Trumpets and exceeding joy, conducted to a Chappel, and in Royal manner married to Artesia, and from thence to an imperial Feast, spending all that day in great pleasure, and at night taking Lawful Delight in her Love; both then, and during the time of both their lives; living in most pleasant, loving and vertuous sort; insomuch, that most places of the known World were filled with the report of their vertuous Lives and peaceable Government.

FINIS.